

# DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, April 3, 2014

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## Dream drive

Sports car wish has come true for Alex

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## Glam gunner

From army assault course to the catwalk

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## What's On

Entertainment and television listings

Starts Page 24



## Energy project aims to cut bills

HUNDREDS of council homes across Dudley borough will receive new windows and insulation to help reduce energy bills as part of a £3.8million project.

Dudley Council has received a £1.5m grant towards the renovations at 397 properties in the Kates Hill and Priory areas of Dudley as well as Pensnett, Brockmoor and Stourbridge.

The first work to replace single-glazed windows and install external wall and loft insulation is under way.

Contractor Wates Living Space expects to complete the whole project by the autumn.

The council, which is contributing £2.3m towards the project, was awarded the grant through ECO (Energy Companies Obligations) by British Gas.

Cabinet member for housing Councillor Steve Waltho said: "This joint investment will help reduce energy bills for our tenants at a time when fuel prices keep rising and also help us to do our bit to reduce the borough's carbon footprint."

It is estimated almost 15,000 tonnes of carbon emissions will be saved over the next 30 years.

James Maden, from British Gas, said: "We're pleased to be making a tangible difference to this community."

## Book place on the train

PASSENGERS at a Black Country railway station can now conquer the classics on their commute with their very own 'book swap' scheme.

The initiative at Coseley station allows customers to pick up a book free of charge and then swap it for another when they have finished it.

Users of the scheme will be encouraged to donate their own favourite books to keep the stock refreshed and replenished.

The book swap box is in the station booking hall.

# WEED WORRY LED TO DEATHS

## Brides marry at town's first gay wedding



Rebecca Billington-Green, left, and Sarah-Louise Billington, both of Tipton, married at Priory Hall in Dudley

IT was a picture perfect day for a devoted couple who tied the knot in one of the country's first gay weddings.

The sun shone as Rebecca Billington-Green and Sarah-Louise Billington celebrated with their family just hours after new laws permitting same sex marriage came into force.

### Ceremony

The couple who live in Tipton were married at Priory Hall in Dudley, one week after they held a commitment ceremony at the same venue.

They posed for photographs in their ivory gowns outside the grade II listed

register office with their family and 11-month-old son Jacob, who was dressed in a grey suit.

Rebecca, aged 31, a nurse at Coventry's Walsgrave Hospital, said it had been an 'emotional' day for them both.

"It was brilliant. It felt very special. Our love is the same as any heterosexual couple. It's nice to have our marriage recognised."

The couple in Coventry three years ago. Then, in 2012, on a holiday in Corfu, Rebecca proposed to Sarah-Louise, 23, who works as a hairdresser at a salon in Dudley Port.

The couple were able to take advan-

tage of a special offer Dudley Council has been running where people can have a buy one and get one free service.

Staff at Priory Hall said they had received a lot of interest from gay couples looking to have a marriage ceremony at the venue.

Superintendent registrar Penny Fulford said: "We have had a steady stream of enquiries at Priory Hall about same sex marriages. The couples that we've talked to are thrilled to have the chance to get married rather than just have the option of a civil partnership."

### Report by Alex Ross and Adam Grinsell

**NEIGHBOURS are shocked and mystified after worry over an invasive weed led to a couple's violent deaths at their Rowley Regis home.**

Neighbours were unaware of a problem with Japanese Knotweed that so worried Dennis McRae, 52, that he battered to death his 55-year-old wife Jane with a perfume bottle before he took his own life by cutting his wrists and throat.

A note at the scene in Bryan Budd Close, signed by Mr McRae, claimed he had been driven to the act by concern over Japanese Knotweed at the rear of their property. He worried that it would make their home impossible to sell.

Neighbours spoke of a couple who only exchanged greetings to those living nearby. Lorna Bryant, who lives next door, said the community was 'deeply saddened' by their deaths.

She was unaware of any problems over Japanese Knotweed at the properties.

### Issue

"I wouldn't know what Japanese Knotweed is without being shown it. We have never had any issue with the growth behind the house", she added.

The scientist, who worked for Solvay in Oldbury, wrote that worry over the weed had added to "my growing madness."

At an inquest in Smethwick on Monday, Senior Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded that Mrs McRae was unlawfully killed and that Mr McRae killed himself.

Mr Balmain said: "This



Kenneth and Jane McRae

is clearly a tragedy. The impression is Mr McRae was possibly becoming paranoid. There is no direct evidence of that, of course. He had a responsible job as a lab technician, his own home free from mortgage.

"It appears he became obsessed with Japanese Knotweed in the vicinity, which was not even on his property. It is difficult to understand what was going on in Mr McRae's mind. For whatever reason he killed his wife and then himself."

The suicide note, read in court, stated: "The despair has got so bad that I have killed her, as I did not want her to be alone without an income when I killed myself."

Their adoptive son Mark McRae, 27, said he did not understand how the tragedy could have happened.

## Motorist is injured when car overturns

A MAN was seriously injured when a car hit a row of parked vehicles and overturned on a Dudley road.

Emergency services were called to Highland Road just before 5.20am on Monday after a Ford Fiesta ended up on its roof.

The man, believed to be the driver and in his 20s, was treated at the scene by the ambulance service for serious injuries and was taken to hospital for further treatment. It is believed two passengers from the car were also injured.

There was severe damage to the front of one of the parked cars and debris littered the road.

In an incident last week, a car rolled over three times before coming to a rest on its roof in Halesowen.

The female driver and passenger were able to get out of the blue Vauxhall Corsa. The crash partially blocked Narrow Lane and street signs were knocked down by the rolling Corsa.

Two cars, including a silver Renault Megane, were involved in an accident in Saltwells Road, Dudley Wood, in the early hours. The drivers were believed to have suffered minor injuries in the accident. Also, a car struck a lamp post in Mucklow Hill, Halesowen. Three casualties were treated at the scene.

## X Factor in Black Country

THE X Factor auditions will be going on tour making two stops in the Black Country.

A mobile audition tour will be visiting Dudley and Wolverhampton this month as part of a 43-date trip.

The mobile tour will be at Dudley Town Hall in St James's Road on April 23 from 12pm to 4pm. It will be at the Mander Centre in Wolverhampton the following day, from 10am to 3pm or 4.30pm for those in education. Those auditioning must be aged 16 or over.



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# Residents divided over road closure

A £10,000 scheme shutting a busy road in Dudley to through traffic could be made permanent.

The proposal follows concerns from those living in Blackacre Road that the route was being used as a 'rat run' by motorists. But angry residents on side roads claim their lives had been blighted by the move.

More than 6,000 cars a day were using the road, near Buffery Park,

as a route through to Dudley Southern Bypass. Bosses agreed to the temporary closure of the road to 'access only' for a trial period.

Residents on connecting roads say this had just forced the traffic to use the narrow side streets instead.

Highways officials have drawn up ideas to install traffic claiming measures and a 20mph limit to slow down traffic while allowing motor-

ists to use Blackacre Road again.

In total 386 letters were sent giving views on the plans during a consultation run between October and November. There were responses from 21 per cent of households.

Of those, council officials say 23.5 per cent supported the proposals while 76.5 per cent were against.

Officials have recommended the closure of Blackacre Road to

through traffic be retained and some traffic calming, such as speed bumps, be introduced.

A further petition with 176 signatures has objected to any traffic calming. There were also two petitions, totalling 90 signatures, asking that Blackacre Road stay shut.

A final decision from highways boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed yesterday (Wednesday).

# Council cracking down on fraud by tenants

**MORE than 50 homes have been seized by Dudley Council after tenancy fraud was uncovered. A specialist team is cracking down on council tenants that flout the rules.**

Since last April there have been dozens of cases of tenancy fraud detected. The team investigates people who are suspected of illegally sub-letting homes and swapping properties without consent.

## No plan to create more 20mph zones

DUDLEY Council has no plans to create more 20mph zones in the borough as Birmingham City Council prepares to roll out its own scheme across much of the city.

Council chiefs in Birmingham are preparing to pilot a scheme that will eventually cover around 90 per cent of the city's roads.

In the Black Country, one of the largest schemes will soon see the introduction of a 20mph speed limit to much of West Bromwich town centre.

Dudley Council has already introduced 20mph speed limits outside 11 schools in the borough, following proposals drawn up by council bosses.

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, Dudley Council cabinet member for transport, said: "Having listened to public concerns we have consulted on and pro-actively assessed the roads at all of the schools in the borough. As a result we are now implementing a programme of speed limits, which range from 20 to 30mph, depending on each road's suitability."

He added: "There are currently no plans to expand this programme."

It also works to investigate those who try, or have secured, a council home under false pretences or have stayed in a property after the legal tenant has left or died.

As a result, 57 properties were recovered by the council. Of these, 34 of the homes were abandoned after legal proceedings were started while keys to 23 other properties were surrendered.

### Waiting

In eight of the cases, the tenants had housing or Right to Buy applications cancelled or excluded.

During the period there were a total of 69 cases of tenancy fraud discovered.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing, said: "Anyone we find guilty of committing housing fraud is at risk of losing their home, being fined or even going to prison."

During the previous financial year, 2012/13, 170 housing fraud investigations were launched. Fifty tenants were caught breaking the rules with some sub-letting their homes.

The council has around 22,000 properties and there are more than 4,000 people on the waiting list.

Figures in September showed 19,601 tenants in arrears with the total number falling behind on their rent up by 17 per cent in a year. Housing chiefs said the rise was due to the impact of welfare reforms including the so-called bedroom tax.

## Dreams come true for children



After a health scare Alex Sargent takes a ride in his dream car, a Ferrari Testarossa

TAKING a ride in a £60,000 sports car and recording a pop song were ways youngsters celebrated fighting back to good health.

Thanks to charity Wishing Well and volunteer Steve Ford, youngsters Alex Sargent and Shannon Webb saw their wishes come true while at Russells Hall Hospital.

Car enthusiast Alex was driven around Stourbridge in a Ferrari Testarossa and Shannon got the chance to record her version of favourite song, DNA by Little Mix.

The pair are the latest children who have had dreams come true thanks to Mr Ford,

who has run the charity for more than 20 years.

Alex, aged 11, of Barnett Lane, Kingswinford, made the request to ride in a sports car while in hospital for two visits following a meningitis scare. Thanks to Mr Ford's contact with FW Jones garage owner Colin Jones, a shining red Ferrari Testarossa was arranged to pick young Alex for a ride. Mr Ford set up a chance for Shannon, 13, of Surrey Road, Dudley, to record at The Den in Dudley after she was in hospital diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

# Man, 69, has died after bus accident

A PENSIONER seriously injured after being hit by a bus in Dudley town centre has died.

The man has been named as Michael Wilkinson, aged 69, who was struck by a single decker bus on Monday afternoon, March 24.

The accident happened at the junction of King Street and Flood Street close to the entrance of Churchill Shopping Centre.

Police said Mr Wilkinson, who lived locally, had suffered serious head injuries following the accident at around 1.15pm. He died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham with his family at his side on Tuesday morning.

Officers from West Midlands Police collision investigation unit are appealing for witnesses to the accident. Pc Paul Cope said: "We are working hard to understand the events of the afternoon and I would urge anyone who was in the area at the time and who has not yet spoken to us to call 101. Our thoughts are with Michael's family and are continuing to support them at this sad time."

An online petition is calling for safety improvements on that stretch of road. King Street was designated a bus-only route 12 years ago.

## More signing up for e-bills

MORE than 2,500 residents in Dudley are now signed up to receive their council tax bills online following the launch of a new system.

The e-billing initiative has been advertised as part of this year's Dudley Council mail-out.

Finance boss Councillor Pete Lowe said: "We're pleased to see there has been a recent increase in the number of residents signing up for e-billing and we hope many, many more will follow suit."

To register people should go online and visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/ebilling](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/ebilling)

## Charity concert

BLACK Country community choir, Voices in Harmony, are on Saturday performing at the Cornbow Hall in Halesowen in aid of Cancer Research UK at 8pm.

Tickets cost £8, call tickets secretary Jenny Andrews on (01384) 635507 or email [tickets@vihchoir.org](mailto:tickets@vihchoir.org)

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## White car taxi rule replaced by stickers

A RULE forcing taxi drivers in Dudley to use only white-coloured private hire cabs will be lifted in June.

New regulations came into force this week which will see all licensed hackney carriages displaying Dudley Council signs.

Taxi drivers won their battle to overturn the colour policy in December last year. The council had brought in the scheme to improve safety in 2006 but the move proved unpopular with cabbies, who claimed the rising cost of white-coloured cars was putting them out of business.

Following a campaign by the Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, the council taxi committee voted to change the rules in December. The authority is carrying improvements to the taxi service which will see all hackney carriages displaying Dudley Council door stickers.

Councillor Richard Body, chairman of the taxis committee, said: "Hackney carriage drivers licensed by Dudley Council must have stickers with the Dudley Council logo on their vehicle doors, by the door handles. Any driver who does not have the stickers will be in breach of the taxis rules and will be asked to appear before the taxis committee."

## Grants offer for job plans

COMMUNITY groups and projects to help boost the job chances of people in the Black Country can apply for grants of up to £15,000 to support their work.

The Heart of England Community Foundation has been awarded just over £2 million by the European Social Fund to be spent on projects designed to get the long-term unemployed closer to the jobs market.

Applications are now being invited from groups in the Black Country. More information on how to apply is available at [www.hearstofenglandcf.co.uk](http://www.hearstofenglandcf.co.uk)

## Shakespeare talk

HISTORIAN Ben Alexander will give a lecture entitled 'Who Wrote the Shakespeare Sonnets?' on April 23, the anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and death. The 7.45pm talk is at the centre behind St Mary's Church, Kingswinford.

# Care home group is in administration

A HEALTHCARE business, which owns three care homes in the West Midlands, has gone into administration.

The administrators of Mimosa Healthcare Group are continuing to run the business and seeking a buyer.

None of the homes, which include Castle Meadows in Dudley, Nethercrest in Netherton and The Willows in Codsall, have been closed.

Mimosa, which has its head office in Beeston, Nottingham, runs 22 care homes around the country caring for about 1,000 elderly and disabled people and employing

1,172. Kerry Bailey and Sarah Rayment, business restructuring partners at BDO, have been appointed as the company's joint administrators. Mrs Bailey said the company would continue to run as usual while a sale of the business was sought.

### Retained

All of the company's staff had been retained and BDO says it will be doing all it can to minimise the number of redundancies that have to be made. The administrators are trading the homes via licensed agents.

Mrs Bailey said: "Our first and main priority as joint administrators is to ensure continuity of care and provision for all residents living in Mimosa homes. We are working hand in hand with professional care operators to ensure this remains the case and that residents experience minimal disruption and worry."

"We are hopeful of securing a sale of the business and the company will continue to trade while all the options are explored. As such, all staff have been retained at this time and our intention is to minimise any possible redundancies."

"We will also be liaising regularly with relevant stakeholders, including the Care Quality Commission, to ensure they are kept fully updated. Residents or loved ones with questions should contact their local home manager for further information," added Mrs Bailey.

Castle Meadows in Dudley has 45 single bedrooms and three doubles. Nethercrest has two homes - Nethercrest Nursing and Nethercrest Residential. Nethercrest Nursing has 32 single bedrooms and five double rooms, Nethercrest Residential has 23 single bedrooms and one double.

# Mother's disgust at fine after fatal electrocution

**THE mother of a young woman fatally electrocuted at her flat is "disgusted" that the qualified supervisor who signed off the property's electrical circuits has been fined £1,000.**

Mother-of-one Emma Shaw died after being electrocuted at the West Bromwich flat she shared with her partner in December 2007 when the 22-year-old was dealing with a leak from a boiler.

The electrical circuits had been signed off as safe by Neil Hoult, aged 53, of Dane Terrace, Rowley Regis, who was found guilty by jurors last week of one charge of failure to discharge a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act. He has been fined £1,000.

Miss Shaw's mother Diane Potter said she hoped the end of the court case, six years after her daughter's death, would allow the family to grieve.

She said: "I am disgusted. She was taken away from us and it was just a £1,000 fine. It's just not justice."

### Hug

"I'm glad court has finished. It's gone on for more than six years. I haven't been able to grieve. I've been trying to keep everybody in the family going. I just wanted closure from it all so I could start grieving."

Miss Shaw had been looking forward to her first Christmas in her first home, a flat in Jefferson Place, with her partner Andrew Cross and son Brayden, who was 23-months-old at the time of her death, and is now aged eight.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard a victim impact statement from Mrs Potter taken before the court case concluded, in which she described her relationship with her daughter as more like best friends.

She said she saw her daughter the day before the tragedy, and she had given her a hug. She added: "Even now I still recall that last touch."

She paid tribute to her daughter, a former Willingsworth High School pupil who had worked in the restaurant at Asda, Great Bridge, saying: "She was bubbly and confident and had so many friends."

Miss Shaw's father Paul, who lives in Ireland, said in his own statement: "She was



Emma Shaw electrocuted while preparing for first Christmas in new home

in her first home, preparing for Christmas and a looking forward to the bright and happy future she should have had. Brayden is now eight years old and he is growing up without his mother, which is just not right."

Hoult had signed off the electrical circuits at Miss Shaw's flat as safe but investigations later revealed a circuit which fed an immersion heater in the boiler had been penetrated by a screw during the flat's construction. Hoult had not been based on site and his responsibility was to check the details on forms sent in by workers before signing them off.

Mr Gary Bell, defending him, highlighted



Neil Hoult had signed off electrical circuits as safe

his client would have preferred to have been on site himself but was given a lot of work to do and very little time in which to complete it. He added that the court case had also taken a toll on Hoult's family as his wife had a breakdown.

Judge Michael Dudley explained the law set out he could only fix an amount the defendant could afford to pay within 12 months, which is why it "may seem light".

The judge told Hoult: "You have been convicted of a grave breach of duty. The testing of electrical circuits is absolutely vital. You were responsible for the failures in checking paperwork. Because of your fail-

ures, and those of others who created this situation, you failed to detect a metal stud frame behind a plaster board at the house was live for a period of some 18 months."

The jury had deliberated for four hours and 35 minutes before finding him guilty.

Hoult's co-accused Christopher Tomkins, 52, from Rowley Village, Rowley Regis, was found not guilty.

The court heard Hoult and Tomkins were employed by Anchor Building and Electrical Services Ltd, contracted to carry out electrical work during the development of Jefferson Place in 2006. The firm had since gone into liquidation.

## NEWS in brief

### Hundreds taking part in arts festival

HUNDREDS of young musicians and dancers are taking part in a festival in the borough.

Dudley Performing Arts groups are partners in the Dudley Arts Hub, which includes choirs, wind and brass bands, string orchestras, dance and drama groups. Most of the events will take place at Dudley Town Hall and at Nether-ton Arts Centre.

There will also be an appearance at the National Festival of Music for Youth in Oxford.

### History of fast food on menu

HISTORIAN Samantha Badger will talk about the history of the fast-food industry at a meeting of the Black Country Society later this month.

The former Stourbridge College lecturer will chronicle the changing eating habits in the Black Country between 1800 and 1970 with her talk Stage Coach Inns to Indian Cuisine at the Black Country Living Museum on April 23, at 7.30pm. Admission is £1.50 to non-members. Call (01384) 873279 for details.

### Boot camp fits the bill at Dell

A NEW boot camp style fitness session is being launched at The Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill on Sunday mornings for people aged 16 and over of all abilities.

Led by a fully qualified instructor, it runs from 9.30am and includes an intense and fun workout. The class costs £3 per session or free for those holding a Lifestyles membership. Call (01384) 812800.

### Walk in memory of cricket legend

FANS are planning to put in the miles for a charity walk in memory of a famous cricketer. Former England international Basil D'Oliveira played for Worcestershire. The 74-mile Walk for Basil from New Road cricket ground to Cardiff is taking place May 1 to 4. To sponsor or take part call Mark Ashbourne on 07506 747619.

### Signal for recruits

A HERITAGE railway is looking to recruit new volunteers.

The Severn Valley Railway's Volunteer Job Fair is on Saturday, April 12, at its Kidderminster station from 10am to 4pm.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



**IN case you missed the latest Met Office forecast, looking at climate in Britain until 2040, let me summarise it. Summers will be hotter, except when they are colder while winters will be milder, except when they are less mild. Even the Met Office's greatest fan, the BBC, was reduced to summing it all up with a headline to treasure: "UK's future climate to be all sorts."**

GOOD to see Kermit the frog entering the debate on Scottish independence (he supports the Union). My interview with the Muppets in a Birmingham hotel many years ago was a highlight of my dazzling career. I can report that Kermit is unfailingly polite and hospitable and is quite the most intelligent, thoughtful and articulate latex amphibian I have ever interviewed.

**MISS Piggy, on the other hand, is a shameless hussy who flirts outrageously with reporters and hints that there is something improper going on with Kermit. I shall never forget, as Miss Piggy alleged the couple were planning a romantic weekend, the plaintive voice of Kermit: "Do not believe her. Trust the frog."**

IN his EU debate with Ukip leader Nigel Farage, the deputy prime minister Nick Clegg rattled off that the EU made us "richer, stronger, safer." Richer? EU membership actually costs us £50,000 million a year. If we are wealthier than other parts of the EU it is entirely because Britain stayed out of every Euro-zealot's dream currency, the euro. Stronger? How can any EU nation be stronger when membership depends on giving up sovereignty? Safer? Has the EU's recent meddling in Ukraine made you feel particularly safe? The EU, founded as a free-trade area, is turning into one of the most imperialist and expansionist powers this world has seen, pushing its borders and its influence right into the nose of the Russia bear and leading Britain into all sorts of risks that are none of our business. The EU actually makes us poorer, weaker and worried.

**MATHS for beginners. Naughty, irresponsible Mr and Mrs Bloggs take their two children on holiday to Spain in term time. The school imposes a "fine" of £100 for each child. However, while the children are away, the school is closed for one day because the teachers are on strike. How much refund can Mr and Mrs Bloggs expect?**

OH, what wicked people we are, ignoring two little girls, lost and alone in a shopping centre. Vast amounts of media coverage preceded Little Girl Lost (C5) in which the two kids, aged seven and five, were told by their mother to stand in the mall to test the reactions of passers-by. Hundreds of adults ignored the pair before one elderly lady asked if they were all right. It was promoted as a shocking indictment of modern apathy and generated lots of free publicity for C5 and the NSPCC. There was the usual crop of predictable why-oh-why columns from the usual crop of predictable female hacks. And then we saw the actual footage. The little girls were clearly in no danger. They showed no real distress. Even the dimmest passer-by could see their mother and the TV producer just a few feet away. The programme makers admitted that their camera crew was clearly visible and the TV reporter referred to the event as "a stunt." Enough said.

**AS my bank scratches around for another £400 million to keep it afloat, I look at the statement on my "free for life" credit card and wonder whose life it refers to. Mine or the Co-op's?**

IN the debate on the future of the BBC, Lord Grade suggests the licence might be collected as part of your council tax. Perfect. And can we put the rubbish in the wheeley bins?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Two police officers jailed for theft

TWO West Midlands Police officers have been jailed for theft after being caught in a sting operation by their own force.

Pc Mark Davis and Pc Neil Samuels were told to search an Oldbury home for stolen property and while there stole 800 cigarettes and £20 in cash. But the Sandwell-based response officers were under surveillance by their colleagues.

They were arrested on the same day before later being charged with one count each of theft.

At Birmingham Magistrates' Court last week Davis, aged 31 and from Clent Road in Oldbury, and Samuels, 33, from Croft Lane in Wolverhampton, were both jailed for 20 weeks.

The court heard that after leaving the house, on July 24, the officers

then went back to the police station where they falsified records of the search and witness statements.

Sentencing them, District Judge David Robinson told them: "These are serious offences involved a high level of breach of trust. The impact of offences such as this on public confidence is high."

"You did all of this believing or knowing that this would impede a

critical investigation, with all of the consequences that might have had for the individual you believed to be in custody and justice."

Earlier in the hearing, defending solicitor Mr Mark Kelly told the court that the two had 'exhibited genuine remorse'. He said: "It was not premeditated, it was stupid, it does not appear to have been of any significant commercial gain."

# Students create a garden at care home

RESIDENTS at a nursing home are enjoying a sensory garden, thanks to the hard work of young volunteers.

A group of students spent two weeks transforming gardens at Nethercrest Nursing Home, Brewster Street, Dudley.

The students, on a 12-week Princes Trust Team programme delivered by City of Wolverhampton College, planted a vegetable patch and herb garden, installed solar lights and hung wind chimes and flower baskets, as well as creating a gnome garden.

They raised the £1,300 needed for the project by sitting in a bath of baked beans at the Asda supermarket in Brierley Hill and organising a sponsored leg wax and car wash.

Team Leader Kirsty Majors said: "The team did a phenomenal job to raise such a huge amount of cash for the project. They should all be very proud of themselves."

"The sensory garden looks wonderful and we hope residents enjoy using it as much as we enjoyed making it."

The Prince's Trust Team programme aims to help unemployed young people aged between 16 and 25 to learn new skills.

# Sight charity swim classes

A SIGHT charity is offering visually impaired young adults a chance to learn to swim in a free eight-week course. People aged 19 to 25, who are partially sighted, can sign up to sessions being held as part of the ActivEyes project set up by Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley.

Sessions are held at the Bert Williams Leisure Centre in Bilston every Wednesday at noon. An eight-week course of lessons start on April 9 but places are limited. Call Tim Jukes on 01902 880111 or email tjukes@beacon4blind.co.uk

# Laugh to get fit

SESSIONS in a village near Stourbridge aim to show that laughter is good for you. A yoga class, combining breathing and laughter exercises, is at Belbroughton Recreation Centre from today (Thursday) at 7pm. Call 07565 218567 or visit www.merriemaggie.co.uk

# New outdoor gym is first for hospital

**AN outdoor gym will be built at Dudley's Russell's Hall Hospital in a national first as officials aim to beat obesity and help boost the health of heart patients.**

Patients, visitors and staff at will be able to use equipment when it is officially opened next month. Seven outdoor gyms have already been installed around the borough in a bid to improve residents' health.

This is thought to be the first time that such a gym has been created at a hospital, thanks to a link up between health bosses and council officials.

## Treadmills

Equipment such as outdoor treadmills and bikes are being fitted this week near to the Action Heart Centre at the hospital, off High Street, Pensnett.

The gym will be targeted for use by people with heart conditions and people referred through Dudley's exercise programme. These rehabilitation services and referral programmes are run by the Action Heart charity on behalf of Dudley Council's Office of Public Health.

The new facility will be made available to everyone to encourage as many people as possible to enjoy a healthier lifestyle and lose weight.

Dudley Council's public health boss, Councillor Stuart Turner, said: "In Dudley we have a long track record of providing a nationally recognised cardiac rehabilitation service and exercise referral programme. This new outdoor equipment will be primarily used to support this work but the equipment will also be available to visitors and other patients. We hope it will help raise the profile further of all of the outdoor gyms."

# MP's praise for Mcjobs

AN MP has met a group of McDonalds workers to present them with certificates as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

Wolverhampton MP Pat McFadden met with McDonald's franchisee Diane Ash and her workers in Coseley.

Mr McFadden chatted to the workers about the opportunities for career development.

Mrs Ash currently employs about 250 across three McDonald's restaurants in Bilston, Dudley and Coseley.

This year she also plans to create an additional 40 to 50 jobs.

# Town's bishop is youngest



Bishop of Dudley Rt Rev Graham Usher and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

DUDLEY has a new bishop after Canon Graham Usher was ordained in the role during a special service at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

The 43-year-old is the youngest bishop in the country.

Hundreds gathered to watch as Mr Usher consecrated by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby at the ceremony.

Among those proudly looking on was Mr Usher's wife, Rachel, and two children Chad, 13, and Olivia, 11.

Friends from Hexham, where Mr Usher served as Dean for five years, also attended.

The Archbishop explained the role of a bishop as one who is called to serve and care for the flock of Christ and to lead them in the way of holiness.

Mr Usher will be formally welcomed to the Diocese of Worcester with a service at Dudley's Top Church on May 3. He will then be installed at Worcester Cathedral on May 4. Mr Usher's ministry will begin after these services.

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## Service is offering advice at open day

PEOPLE will be able to find out more about a service aimed at keeping older and vulnerable people safe in their homes during an event in Quarry Bank next week.

The Living Well, Feeling Safe service provides practical safety, security and well-being advice. It is a partnership comprised of Dudley Council, Age UK, West Midlands Police, Victim Support, West Midlands Fire Service and other agencies.

Staff from the service plan to visit properties in Quarry Bank on April 9, 10 and 11.

Free home assessments will be on offer where advice, tips and practical help will be provided on home safety and security, as well as on keeping comfortable, happy, independent and well. Home safety and security equipment can be fitted and home and personal alarms will be offered.

Advice on wellbeing, home improvements, fire safety and crime prevention will be available.

A drop in information day will be held at Quarry Bank Community Centre, Sheffield Street, on April 11, from noon until 4pm.

The service can be contacted on (01384) 817743.

## Police used Taser on dog

A DOG was tasered by police after biting a man and killing a cat.

A team of police including specialist dog handlers were called to Kates Hill last week to reports of dogs running loose.

A man had been bitten trying to catch the dogs that had killed a cat and were chasing children.

One of the dogs, believed to be Akitas, was given an electric shock because it was aggressive and was taken to a vet for treatment.

Both were seized while police try to locate the dogs' owner.

## Riverside stroll

WALKERS are invited to step into spring by taking part in a 10-mile guided stroll in the Severn Valley.

The riverside walk from Aleye, near Bridgnorth, to Chelmarsh Reservoir, will take place on April 10. Booking is essential. Call 01746 781192 for details.

# Farewell to museum's popular volunteer



Barbara Skeldon

A LOVED and respected former nursery nurse from Tipton who volunteered at Dudley's Black Country Living Museum for many years has died at the age of 78.

Barbara Skeldon was a familiar face at the Tipton Road attraction in the 1980s and '90s as a guide at one of the cottages. She looked after pigs at the museum, arriving to feed them before going to work at the Blakeley School in Tividale. Mrs Skeldon would return to the attraction after work to feed them again.

Her husband of 58 years, John, said his wife as someone who always put the needs of others first.

She died at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on March 16 after suffering a chronic ulcerated leg.

### Funeral

Her funeral will take place tomorrow (Friday) at Gornal Wood Crematorium at 2.10pm.

Mrs Skeldon leaves her husband, three children and two grandchildren.

Mr Skeldon, 78, said: "She used to be a guide at one of the cottages at the museum and used to dress up in period clothing and tell visitors what life was like for people at the time. Barbara also used to cook things like pig's trotters and stews showing visitors how those dishes used to be prepared.

"She absolutely adored volunteering at the museum. When I have gone back people say they still remember her."

Mr Skeldon said his wife had to

give up volunteering after developing problems with her legs.

"She was absolutely devastated when she was not able to carry on," he said.

Mrs Skeldon worked as a nursery nurse at the Blakeley School, for more than 25 years.

Her husband said: "Barbara was someone who would always put the needs of others, especially children, before her own. She was loved and respected and that is the most fitting tribute of all."

# Longer opening hours at threatened medical centre

**OPENING hours at a closure-threatened medical centre have been extended for a second time to ease mounting pressure on accident and emergency services in Dudley.**

Health chiefs took the step of extending opening hours at the Walk-In Centre in Holly Hall last November to help A&E services at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital cope during the busy winter months. The centre was supposed to return to its regular hours of 8am to 8pm this Monday.

But officials from the borough's Clinical Commissioning Group have decided to continue with the extended opening hours of 8am to 10pm until June.

They said it had been necessary to take the step as patient demand remained high and was expected to increase over the Easter period.

### Replaced

The centre, which has been earmarked for closure and could be replaced with an urgent care centre at the hospital, will remain open until 10pm Monday to Friday until June 30.

Officials said it eased the strain on the borough's out-of-hours GP service and the A&E service at the hospital.

Chief Accountable Officer for the commissioning group Paul Maubach said: "As always during the winter months, the demand for A&E services increases which can put a lot of pressure on an already busy service.

"In Dudley we have extended the opening hours of the Walk-In Centre until June 2014 to give patients better access and help ease the demand on A&E.

"We are encouraging patients to help the NHS by considering using other parts of the NHS, such as a chemist, GP or the NHS 111 line."

A service will also be held at St James WR Church, Highgate Street, Old Hill at 7.30pm on Good Friday.

## Christians plan a Walk of Witness

CHURCHGOERS will be turning out for a special faith walk in the Black Country at Easter.

The annual Good Friday Walk of Witness will take place on April 18 and will involve people from churches across Cradley Heath, Dudley Wood and Old Hill.

### Prayers

It will begin at 9.30am with prayers at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Old Hill.

The route will then see the walkers set out on a route taking in Trinity Street, Clarendon Street and into Roxburgh House. Then to St Luke's Church, on to The Market Place in Cradley Heath and to end by the statue outside Tesco.

Services afterwards will be held at Four Ways Baptist Church at the end of the High Street or at The Salvation Army in Meredith Street.

A service will also be held at St James WR Church, Highgate Street, Old Hill at 7.30pm on Good Friday.

## Best foot forward for Dudley Trail



Stroll on — members of the Himley Walk Fit Group are ready to take part in the Dudley Trail next month

WALKERS have the opportunity to discover hidden gems during this year's Dudley Trail.

The event attracts thousands of people and is now in its 34th year. Routes for six, nine, 12, 18 and 26 miles are on offer as part of the annual walking extravaganza on May 4.

People can walk at their own pace and take in the sights along canal tow-paths, disused railway lines, country paths and a few roads. They all start at Dudley Leisure Centre at design-

ated times between 8am and noon. The event is part of the annual Dudley Walking Festival, which runs from April 19 to May 4.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "The Dudley Trail attracts over 2,000 people every year from the borough and beyond. There is always a great atmosphere on the day. The trail is suitable for walkers of all abilities and is a great way to get exercise and fresh air."

Checkpoints along the routes ensure the well being of walkers. Everyone who completes a trail receives a certificate. It will cost £3 per person to join the 26 and 18 mile routes, £2.50 for 12 and nine miles and £1.50 to walk the six mile route.

An additional 50p will be charged for entries on the day. Entry forms are available from Dudley Council leisure centres and libraries or call (01384) 817817. Forms can be downloaded from [www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall)

## NEWS in brief

### Sporty Filipinos thank the mayor

BASKETBALL players took time out from a tournament for a trip to the Mayor of Dudley's parlour.

The British Filipino Association Basketball tournament was held at Dudley College's Evolve campus. A party of eight met the mayor to thank the borough on behalf of 60 players in the competition, which closes on Saturday and involves Filipinos from across the Black Country. They presented a basketball jersey to Mayor Councillor Alan Finch.

### Golfers helping children's charity

GENEROUS golfers at a club near Stourbridge have raised more than £4,000 to help a children's charity during a year-long programme of events.

Members of Hagley Golf and Country Club dug deep to bring in the cash for Barnardo's.

Club captain Ken Butlin raised more than £2,700 at various fundraising events held during his year in office and Barclays Bank topped the sum up by contributing a further £1,500 for Barnardo's services.

### Chaos musical wins stage awards

CRADLEY Heath Amateur Operatic Society swept the board at the Birmingham and District Guild Peripatetic Awards, thanks to its production of Me and My Girl. The group won four awards, the National Operatic and Dramatic Association Cup for an Outstanding Achievement plus awards for actor J Paul Murdoch and director Dennis Price whose production team won for best musical.

### Major housing projects ahead

BUILDERS Morris Homes have unveiled plans for a number of major housing projects across the country.

The new developments, including 48 homes next to the Stourbridge Canal at Waters Edge, Wordsley, which is due to start this spring, are expected to create 850 jobs for direct-ly-employed staff and for sub-contractors.

### Trust's meeting

DUDLEY Canal Trust will hold its annual meeting on April 16 at Blowers Green Pumphouse, Peartree Lane, starts at 7.30pm. Vic Smallshire and Richard Jones will talk about 50 years of the trust's work.

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## IN MY VIEW

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JOSIE Cunningham, some people may remember, was the 'model' who received £4,800 worth of breast enhancements on the NHS, because her slim-line figure was 'ruining her life'. Reportedly, she showed off her new profile by posing topless in a national newspaper, but I must have missed the pictures. Which is a shame really. After all, you should never pay for something without having a good look at what you're getting for your money.

Anyway, Josie now appears to have had a change of heart. Not only is she hoping to have the operation reversed, she also says she will be suing the NHS for clinical negligence and emotional distress.

This truly is beyond parody. The latest instalment in this rather tawdry soap opera is that Josie has now become pregnant during her new career as a prostitute. Well, I suppose you might as well put your capital to work. Perhaps she should have bought her new assets through the Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

In the meantime, an operation that would enable Staffordshire schoolboy Ben Baddeley to walk has been cancelled by the NHS due to a lack of funds.

Thankfully, Ben will get the treatment which will transform his life. Donations have poured in from the general public, including an anonymous benefactor who has stepped in to fund the bulk of the £20,000 cost of the treatment.

At the same time, former Black Country police chief Mike Collins - still working as an advanced driving examiner at the age of 82 - is collecting money to help pay for the physiotherapy Ben will need once he has had his operation.

If you are able to help, donations can be made on the website [www.justgiving.com/yimby/benpainfreelife2](http://www.justgiving.com/yimby/benpainfreelife2)

And in the meantime, maybe it is time for a long, hard look at what the National Health Service exists for.

□□□□

WHAT is the first thing that comes into your mind every time you see disgraced former Fifa chief on television?

Do you feel a sense of outrage at how this ridiculous figure has turned the world football governing body into a laughing stock while lining his own pockets? Or maybe, like me, you wonder if he is going to utter Dixon of Dock Green's catchphrase, 'evenin' all'.

In the same way that every time the director of award winning movie 12 Years a Slave appears on television, my first thought is not 'what a talented fellow this chappie is'.

But rather 'That is not Steve McQueen!'



Gary Hawkins, who worked at Carcraft



Ex-police chief Mike Collins, 82, still at work



Albert Billington, on his 90th birthday at B&Q

# Workers proving age is no barrier

MARK ANDREWS looks at our older workforce and the challenges facing some senior members of staff

**WE can all look forward to a few more years in the workplace thanks to the fact that we are living longer than ever before.**

But once we reach our 50s and 60s will our employers still want us or will years of experience count for nothing?

There are currently record numbers of older people in employment but it seems they are not finding the workplace as easy as their younger counterparts.

New research by employment lawyers Slater & Gordon found that millions of workers in Britain could have a case for illegal age discrimination in the workplace with many saying they were treated differently to their younger colleagues, passed over for promotion and worried they are at greater risk of redundancy.

Their fears are not unfounded, last year car sales manager Gary Hawkins successfully sued Wednesbury motor dealer Carcraft after he was sacked for being too old - at just 52.

The married father-of-four was awarded an undisclosed payout running into thousands of pounds after his former employer was judged to have been guilty of aged discrimination.

Thankfully he has now found work as a branch manager at Scottish Motor Auctions in Bilston, where he says the atmosphere is totally different.

"I couldn't be happier, I have worked with the guy before, and we both know each other," says Mr Hawkins, who is now 53.

After winning his case, Mr Hawkins declared he had struck a blow for mid-



Older workforce - Paul Beddow who works at Argos at Merry Hill

dle-aged workers everywhere. "I didn't even know I wasn't part of the youth culture until they got rid of me," he said. "I believe I was the oldest guy working there and they had about 520 members of staff on all the sites."

Edward Cooper, Slater & Gordon's head of employment law, said their survey had found one in 10 employers felt ignored by their manager, and one in seven had seen younger staff promoted ahead of them since hitting 40.

This comes despite a year-long study by management consulting group Ac-

centure which found that older workers were more efficient than younger ones, also having lower levels of staff absenteeism and sickness.

Mr Cooper says: "Very few businesses enforce a retirement age but this research shows that many will still sideline and isolate staff when they get to a certain age."

The report suggested that 54 was the age at which career prospects seemed to be most affected.

Some senior citizens are proving leading the way when it comes to working

later in life. Recently, handyman Albert Billington finally decided to hang up his overalls at the ripe old age of 90.

And even though Mr Billington has decided to leave his job at B & Q in Bristol, he is still keeping active by helping his son Martin, 57, with the restoration of his home. Mr Billington had worked continuously for 77 years, only taking a handful of days of sick during that time.

And there are employers in the West Midlands who realise that age also brings with it a wealth of experience, not to mention life skills which no training course can teach.

Retired teacher Paul Beddows decided to take up a Christmas job at Argos in the Merry Hill centre - and more than four years on, he is still in the post.

Summer  
Mr Beddows, who is 62, spent 35 years working in the education sector, teaching at Rowley Regis College, Josiah Mason College in Birmingham, and Stourbridge College, before deciding to take early retirement in the summer of 2009.

However, within five months he decided to return to work, and has not looked back.

"The trouble with being retired is that you tend to just sit at home doing nothing. There are jobs to do, but if I wasn't quite in the mood, I might have thought 'I can always do it tomorrow'." At the age of 82, former police chief Mike Collins is still working as an advanced driving examiner with the charity Rospa.

Mr Collins has continued to work ever since retiring as a superintendent at West Bromwich police station in 1978, having also spent two years as a Red Cross aid worker in war-torn Somalia and Burma. Mr Collins, who typically works around two days a week, says he still finds his work very rewarding. He says "I think there will come a time when you start to lose a bit of credibility, when you are a bit too old. But at the moment I'm still enjoying it."

## Poorest are paying price

IAIN Duncan Smith has promised to get to grips with Britain's benefits culture, and make sure that work pays.

Local councils across the West Midlands warn they will have to make tough decisions and cut services as they seek to balance the books.

And then, caught somewhere in the middle, are the children of some of the poorest families, according to Children's Commissioner for England Maggie Atkinson.

"The poorest families, and therefore their children, are paying the price now," she says.

"We did in-depth analysis on the welfare bill. Families, parents with children, especially where there was already economic pressure on the households, would be ill-served by the welfare reforms."

Atkinson says not only are families on low incomes being hit by cuts to social security benefits, but library closures and reductions in leisure spending are also hitting the young.

In an interview with Total Politics magazine, the commissioner says local government cuts had also hit after-school and holiday clubs for children.

Atkinson says Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith's welfare shake-up, part of the Government's efforts to cut the deficit and encourage people who can work to take a job, had 'not served families well'.

### Impact

"I recognise, and our assessment recognises, that for some families Universal Credit would do good, would help them to make their money go further. But even with those effects we were adamant, and I remain adamant, that the welfare reforms have not served families well."

The commissioner says the impact of the Government's austerity measures on children are not confined to the welfare reforms.

"Future generations coming down the line may well have a better time of it, but there are children now who are paying the price in England, not only for the reduction in welfare spending, but in libraries, in leisure facilities, in early intervention, in after-school clubs or holiday clubs."

"All those things have been under such pressure in local government that many of them have stopped doing them. And that isn't just an urban issue."

Atkinson is no stranger to controversy. In 2010 Denise Fergus, the mother of murdered two-year-old James Bulger, called for Atkinson to be sacked over her comments about the two boys who murdered her son. While saying the murder was 'exceptionally unpleasant', Atkinson said she thought they were too young at 10 years old to be tried for his murder.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

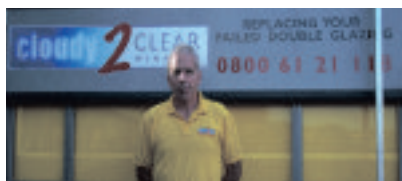
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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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## Parking must be free in town centre

JUST look what has happened to Dudley over recent years —shop owners finding it increasingly difficult to provide a viable service because of dwindling numbers of shoppers. It must be time for free parking in Dudley town centre.

Millions of pounds are to be spent on a multi-storey car park, which will be empty if parking charges are applied?

Good fresh foods are available on the market, which are cheap and important in a healthy diet. These will be neglected as customers opt for free car parking in Merry

Hill. It is short sighted of the council not to see that free parking would encourage footfall to the market and shops, increasing income to local businesses and eventually to the council.

There is no hope of rejuvenating Dudley when there is such stiff competition from 10,000 free parking spaces in Merry Hill. The council charging for spaces makes no sense at all when Dudley is trying to re-establish itself as a popular market town.

**C JONES**  
**Tividale**

## Back at Stone Square one

BACK in 2004 Councillor Les Jones unveiled the new Stone Square 'public space' which had been created at a cost of approximately £800k, losing several parking spaces in the process.

Now, almost exactly ten years later, we have Councillor Khurshid Ahmed proposing that the square be altered as part of the £6.7m revamp, gaining 10 parking spaces in the process.

I wonder if this is what Councillor Jones meant when he said the development was "just the start of fantastic things to come"?

Successful administrations in Dudley have dramatically failed to create the conditions for success in our shopping centre. I only hope that the latest £6.7m spending is not as catastrophic a failure as the Stone Square folly. The people of Dudley deserve better.

**B ETHERIDGE**  
**Sedgley**

## Get rid of all that clutter

GOOD news to read that the new boss of Merry Hill used to live in Wolverhampton, and remembers what Merry Hill was like before it started declining.

As well as Mr Butterworth's ideas for improving catering areas, I hope he will go back to the Richardson twins' principles of wide uncluttered aisles. They would not have allowed it to have all the market style stalls, and pop ups everywhere.

Also cars in the centre were a rarity rather than the norm, and certainly not second hand ones.

**R GWILLIAMS**  
**Brierley Hill**

## Embrace advances from city

RE the Greater Black country/Birmingham and the letter from J Wardle.

Stourbridge is NOT in the Black Country for starters, neither is Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Halesowen, etc.

So how does that make the BC, which for argument's sake is a two to three mile radius of Dudley (from Tipton to Gornal down to Brierley Hill and across to Cradley Heath) bigger than a city over 100 square miles? Guess you would call somebody from Luton a Cockney.

Maybe you should remember that Birmingham took over Aston, Handsworth and Sutton Coldfield in the past and gave over land to create Sandwell, Walsall and Solihull.

Your goodness and the old diehards may resist Birmingham's advances but the younger generation, if they know what's good for them, must realise that the city is the brand.

**BRETT ASHCROFT**  
**Merrivale Road**  
**Hurst Green**  
**Halesowen**

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chron  
@expressandstar.co.uk

## Time to keep dogs out of your parks

I HAVE noticed over the recent months, that a number of people, including myself have complained about the amount of dog mess round our streets.

I would like to draw attention to one particular incident.

My daughter lives in Albion Street, Wall Heath, right next to the park.

Saturday, March 23 happened to be a nice, warm day, but she could not have the doors or windows open as the smell of dog excrement coming from the park was overpowering.

It was so powerful we thought it was on our shoes or clothes.

Surely this is a health hazard to the children play-

ing there, also to the residents nearby? There must be a hundred dog walkers visiting this park during the day and not everyone bothers to clean up after their animals, also at the same time letting them off the leash to run wild.

I think it's time we followed the example of the Canadians and Americans and set up special fenced off dog walking areas in our parks, making the parks cleaner so that our children could play both in safety and free from dog mess.

Either this or ban dogs from public areas altogether.

And yes, I am an animal lover, including dogs.

**T DAVIES**  
**Dudley**

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## Chairman presides over AGM

GRANGE'E' GUILD

THE AGM of Grange "E" Guild was held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on Tuesday March 4 and was presided over by chairman Hazel Smith.

All available minutes of the 2013 AGM were read, approved and signed. The chairman, secretary and treasurer will serve for the next 12 months. Resignations were received from Joan Biddlestone, registrar and hostess Margaret Blower.

These positions will be covered temporarily by other members until permanent officers can be found. The chairman then presented Joan and Margaret with gifts on behalf of the guild and thanked them both for their loyal service.

Jill Attwood gave an up to date financial report and Marlene O'Hanlon reminded members that the next meeting of the Luncheon Club would be at the Whittington Inn on April 14.

Members were served a fish and chip supper followed by tea and coffee. The raffle was then drawn and prizes were won by Pat Rae, Chris Holton and Jean Williams.

The sales table for April will have an Easter theme.

The meeting was followed on April 1 with the speaker giving a talk about Schellenberg's African Bakery Project.

New members and guests will always receive a warm welcome at any of our meetings. For further information call secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

## Guests are taken back to the 1940s



Speaker John Moberley, with registrar Jan Burrows, right and treasurer Sandra Chappel

THE March meeting of the Dudley South Ladies Luncheon was particularly enjoyable as chairman Mary Jones welcomed 33 members to hear speaker John Moberley.

He asked "Do you remember when...?" Following an excellent three-course lunch he reminded guests about life in the 1940s when the war changed everyone's lives forever.

There was free milk for mothers and children and penicillin was only available for soldiers. Women received an old age pension and two weeks paid holiday was first introduced.

John showed samples of the meagre rations and clothing coupons. He wore a daz-

ling fairisle pullover originally created to use up odd bits of wool. He brought a gas mask and stone hot water bottle to help his audience enter into the spirit of nostalgia.

Ann Rogers confirmed two outings, firstly to the Blind Institute, including lunch, on May 21 and Dudley Zoo with a cream tea on June 25. A coach outing will be arranged to Touchwood Shopping Centre, Solihull.

The next luncheon will be at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath, on Friday, April 11 at 12.30pm when the speaker will be Ray Sturdy on Whitley Court.

DUDLEY S LADIES LUNCH CLUB

KINGSWINFORD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Max keen to tell castle history

AT the March meeting members and visitors were entertained by Max Kean.

His subject was Dudley Castle and after making an entrance in period costume he recounted the history of the castle and its owners through the centuries.

Starting with a wooden structure and rebuilt in

stone with additions over the years. The present remains are mainly those built by John Dudley.

In the 1850s the castle and grounds were the scene of spectacular entertain-

ments and in 1937 became the home to Dudley Zoo. The next meeting is on Monday April 7 at 7.30pm at the community centre, in High Street. Ray Sturdy will present 'The Real Dad's Army'.

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# Larissa to give beauty pageant her best shot

**A SOLDIER** will exchange her military fatigues for glamorous gowns after reaching the final of this year's prestigious Miss Birmingham contest.

Larissa Phipps said it was the first time she has been involved with an event of this kind and was delighted to have been selected for the glittering final.

The 20-year-old is used to being under pressure as she has been a serving soldier for the past three-and-a-half years.

Larissa is a gunner with the The King's Troop in London and said that her comrades had all been 'very encouraging' and want her to return to them with the city's coveted title for beauty and personality.

## Theatre

The big final of the event will be held at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre, just off Brindley Place, on Sunday, April 27.

The former Pedmore and Technology College student said: "I have been interested in doing something like this for a while and my family and friends encouraged me to go for it."

She explained: "I am not scared of anything and won't be worried about going out on the catwalk."

"Actually, I am really looking forward to the competition and seeing what happens. I am feeling more anticipation than nervousness."

Larissa, who is single, has a life-long passion for horses and had been involved in equestrian competitions, such as showjumping, in the past.

"I did not intend to join the Army when I was younger but all that changed when I saw The King's Troops on horseback," she said.

"I have loved horses since before I was able to walk and always wanted



**Twenty-year-old action girl Larissa pictured in her civvies**



**Larissa on duty with the King's Troop based in London**

to work with them. I thought why not join the military as well.

"I absolutely love it," she said.

"Since the first training I have been enjoyed everything about it."

As regards her inclusion in the Miss Birmingham final, she said: "My colleagues have been really supportive and want me to come back with the title. I am certainly going to give it my best shot."

As part of the Miss Birmingham competition, the 20 finalists have to wear evening gowns, sportswear, and going out dresses and one round will

even see the contenders dressed in clothes that are made from recycled materials.

## England

The winner will get direct entry into the Miss England competition, and the winner of that gets an entry into the \$100,000 Miss World contest. The Miss Birmingham winner will also become an ambassador for the city.

Larissa added: "Just to make it through to the final of the competition is a real achievement and I am very proud to have reached this far."

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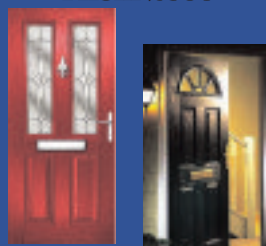
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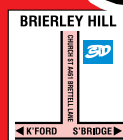
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# Rising energy prices are a major concern for families

## THE WAY I SEE IT



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their views**

*"At this rate, many families  
in Dudley won't be feeling a  
recovery for some time yet"*

TWO weeks have now passed since George Osborne gave his budget. Newspapers and politicians in Westminster have gone over it in detail but my question is: How does it measure against what local people told me were their priorities?

Nine in ten local families told me that rising energy prices are a big concern, and two thirds said they were worried about the cost of food and everyday household items too. There was nothing in the budget to tackle this issue.

Last Thursday the Government finally backed Labour's calls for a full review of the energy market but local people say they need help right now, not years down the line. Last Wednesday Big Six energy company SSE promised to freeze prices until 2016, proving that the Government could use a price freeze to help families right now.

Six in ten local people told me that they know someone who has been out of work for over six months, and long-term youth unemployment in our area is twice the national average.

Nearly half blamed this on a lack of Government investment in our area but George Osborne had no new plans for investment that will benefit Dudley. I want investment to build 200,000 homes a year across the whole country by 2020, bringing jobs, investment and cheaper homes to Dudley.

Instead, George Osborne wheeled out old plans to build yet more houses in the

South East, at Ebbsfleet.

At this rate, many families in Dudley won't be feeling a recovery for some time yet.

There were major announcements on pensions in the Budget. From now on, pensioners will be able to withdraw as much or as little cash from their pension pots as they like.

People who have worked hard and saved carefully their whole lives deserve to get the best possible value from their pensions, so I welcome any move to give people more power over their pensions. But this is a big change, and we need to look carefully at how this will affect current pensioners and those saving for their retirement. How will this affect the annuities

market? If someone empties their pension pot but ends up in need of social care, who steps in?

Wider reforms are needed. Savers now need access to proper pensions advice more than ever and we need to put an end to unfair pension fees that can cost pensioners up to £230,000 over a lifetime.

Last week was Museum Week and the Black Country Museum was asking local people to share their memories of local attractions.

The Black Country Museum has done a great job of preserving buildings I remember from growing up in the area. St James School was up the road from me on Eve Hill when I was growing

up, I've had fish and chips from Hobbs & Sons at the museum and at its old site on Hall Street, and I've even spent a summer washing dishes at the Stables Restaurant!

We should be proud of our industrial past and take inspiration from it as we work to bring high-tech manufacturing jobs into the region, and great local attractions like the Black Country Museum help us do that.

Over the last few weeks lots of local residents have been in touch with concerns that the Government is seeking to relax or repeal the ban on fox hunting.

The Prime Minister announced that the Government will not be introducing an amendment that I know many people feared could have weakened the Hunting Act. However, the Environment Secretary also confirmed in the House of Commons on Thursday that the Government still intend to hold a vote on the repeal of the Hunting Act 'at an appropriate time'.

I believe the hunting ban was an important achievement by the previous Government and it continues to enjoy overwhelming public support. That is why I will work with campaigners to oppose any effort to amend or change the Hunting Act. I've fought for many animal rights campaigns since being elected in 2005. If there are any issues you think I should be raising in Parliament please get in touch at [ian.austin.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.austin.mp@parliament.uk)

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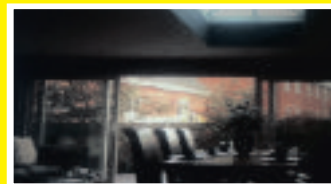
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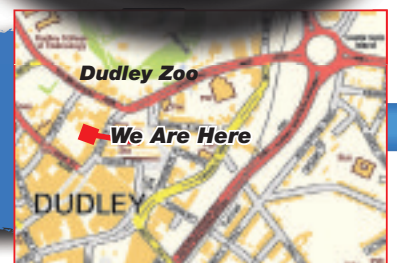
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# Dig at glassworks site aims to secure lottery funding

**ARCHAEOLOGISTS** are bidding for lottery funding to excavate the site of an historic glassworks ahead of a £1m heritage scheme.

Experts, historians and residents have already been working on the archaeological dig at the site of the Glasshouse College and Ruskin Glass Centre, in Amblecote. They have found the long-hidden remains of at least two glass cones, similar to the Red House Glass Cone, in Wordsley.

It is hoped with more excavation they can search areas where they believe the remains of a further two cones might be found.

## Furnace

The conical buildings were designed to channel air into the furnace to make the fires burn hotter.

It also provided a large work space for the glassmakers. Over the decades as glass-making process was modernised many fell into disrepair, were demolished or simply collapsed.

A team from Cheshire-based heritage consultancy firm Nexus have been working on the site for more than a fortnight painstakingly clearing a car park area.

The car park and land to the rear of the centre are due to be redeveloped for new commercial workshops and a new car park to be built.

The site, in Wollaston Road, was once home to glass giants Webb Corbett and Royal Doulton – both world-renowned names.

But now it is a hive of activity as layers of earth have been removed to reveal a cone dating back to the 1690s.

Archaeologists believe this collapsed in 1785 according to news reports they have researched from the time.

Another structure was found nearby in part of land where there was once a cone belonging to Colbourne Hill Glassworks dating back to around 1830.

They found part of this had been converted for warehousing in the 1930s and part of a cellar has been dug out.

Underground cellars and passageways have



Senior heritage consultant Kate Page-Smith with layers going back to the 1830s



Volunteer Adrian Horton is pictured with a couple of glass bottles found at the site

also been unearthed complete with a 1940s steam boiler made by the West Bromwich firm Britannia.

Senior heritage consultant Kate Page-Smith says many layers have had to be stripped away including ash and rubble.

"It has been an exciting project to work on and to find the two cones so far has been amazing," she said. "This site is like a time capsule of 18th century technology."

"We think there is much more to find so that is why we want to secure lottery funding to continue."

## Meeting

They are meeting with officials from English Heritage in the coming days. The more extensive digs would allow them to the chance to detail more of their findings.

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# Pastor hopeful his wife will be allowed to return

A CHURCH pastor says he is hopeful of overturning a decision to refuse his wife of 14 years residence in the UK.

But he is already counting up the £5,000 cost of the ordeal.

Robert Cooper is appealing against the Home Office's rejection of a UK entry clearance as a spouse for his Brazilian wife Adna. The 39-year-old, who lives in Pensnett, appeared as a witness at an asylum and immigration tribunal in Birmingham last week.

## Homeland

Adna's application was made last April as the couple looked to move back to UK following a nine-year spell in her homeland. But Adna, aged 35, was refused, partly because Robert could not prove he earned more than £18,600 a year in his new job — a requirement only recently introduced.

The refusal was despite the couple's marriage in Kingswinford and a three-year period when both worked full-time in the Black Country before the move to Brazil.

Mr Cooper, who works for the Renewal Presbyterian Church based in London, said: "The case came down to two issues — will the judge accept accountant receipts offered instead of payslips supporting my income and if the decision impacts my human rights. We are talking about a wife of 14 years here."

Robert is unable to supply payslips up to six months old because his church was run from Brazil until October, when it became a UK-based limited company. Robert can only show receipts in a bid to prove he earns more than the required amount. Robert said: "Taking everything which has happened so far, it has cost me about £5,000. If we fail, we will be reapplying with the six payslips I will have by



Robert and Adna Cooper from Pensnett pictured in happier times

then. That is more money. It is providing more of a strain on us."

Robert faces an anxious wait to discover the outcome of his appeal hearing, which lasted an hour. He expects to receive a decision this month but maybe forced to wait another 28 days as the Home Office will be given a right

to appeal. It another episode in a year-and-a-half ordeal for the couple, who met 14 years ago while Robert was on a Christian mission in Sao Paulo.

They married at Kingswinford Christian Centre six months later and settled in Pensnett for three years before returning to Brazil for nine years.

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## Chancellor's vow on manufacturing skills



George Osborne at the Cube Precision Engineering factory with the firm's boss Neil Clifton, left, and James Morris MP

**CHANCELLOR** George Osborne vowed to help inspire school leavers to join the 'home of manufacturing' in the West Midlands while visiting a Rowley Regis firm.

The message that his budget was for 'makers and doers' was top of the agenda as the Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke at Cube Precision Engineering Ltd, in Cakemore Road.

The company, which supplies tools to Jaguar Land Rover, is among businesses heralded by the Chancellor for

leading a manufacturing recovery. Cube Precision Engineering, named young business of the year in the Express & Star Business Awards 2013, aims to create 10 new engineering positions.

Owner Neil Clifton, 36, who has grown the business from six to 37 staff since 2009, explained the company has been helped by a Government scheme provided bank loan guarantees to support exports. He said: "The doubling of the capital allowances helped us decide to set up a new state-of-the-art £325,000 machining centre."

Mr Osborne said he hoped ambi-

tious youngsters would want to join such successful businesses. He called on schools and colleges to bridge the skills gap.

"If the kids in the schools could see the quality of the work being done — the exciting future that a business like this has — then there would be even more doing the necessary skills," he said, visiting with Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

"We have got to make sure that kids have that ambition to be part of our manufacturing success story and that our schools and colleges are giving them the right skills."

**Dudley Stroke Association** are a local independent charity providing advice, support, and information to people and their families after a stroke as well as raising awareness into its effects and prevention.

Their Family & Carer Support Worker contacts people newly diagnosed with a stroke and offer them and their families' support which includes hospital or home visits, telephone contact or putting people in touch with other agencies.

Everyone who has a stroke is entitled to a review 6 weeks, 6 months and 12 months after their stroke and Dudley Clinical Commissioning Groups has asked Dudley Stroke Association to carry these out on their behalf.

Longer term support is offered via telephone or home visits and through the activities they run including Family and Carer Support groups,

exercise after stroke groups including a weekly exercise group at The Dell Stadium using the track and outdoor gym equipment, coffee mornings and support groups for people who may have communication difficulties following their stroke.

The Self Management Programme delivered by Dudley Stroke Association is specifically for people after a stroke and their carers, runs for 6 weeks and helps people develop strategies in living their life after a stroke.

Can you help spread the importance of the FAST message? Dudley Public Health has provided funding to put the FAST message onto sports kits. The Association will come out to your groups and talk about stroke and the work they do, if you are involved in a sports team or would like to help them raise awareness then contact the Association for more details.



For more information about the work Dudley Stroke Association do or how they can help you, please contact them on 01384 271982 or email mail@[dudleystrokeassociation.org.uk](mailto:dudleystrokeassociation.org.uk)

Or visit our website [www.dudleystrokeassociation.org.uk](http://www.dudleystrokeassociation.org.uk)

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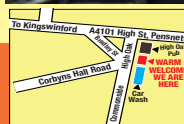
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One of the photographs on show, with members from 1939 featured



Delight for Bill Shuker, left, after spotting an old friend



Bloomfield Road Youth Club reunion at Brook Street Community Centre in Tipton



Footballers, with Sam Craddick, front row, second left



A picture of members of the youth club from the 1980s

# Happy reunion brings back the joys of youth

**MEMORIES** of water fights, late night camping trips and footballing triumphs were relived as former members of a long-running youth club met up for a reunion.

Laughter filled Brook Street Community Centre in Tipton as Bloomfield Road Youth Club memories were recalled.

Dating back to 1925, the club's old premises were demolished in 1978 but it did continue in partnership with Tipton Green Methodist Church until 1986 before disbanding.

During its heyday the club was the main place for youngsters of the town to meet up, and take part in activities included games, annual camping trips to Earlswood in Warwickshire, bonfires and sports days.

Samuel Caddick, a retired tool-maker at Triplex now aged 82, was the oldest member of the former club to attend the event, which for

## MEMORY LANE By Alex Homer

him triggered thoughts of the days when he played inside right for the club's football team in the West Bromwich Amateur League.

The grandfather-of-four, who now lives in Coseley, joined the football team in 1953 and played until 1956. In his first season, the club finished runners-up in the league and he also remembered one campaign which saw the team through to the semi-finals of a knockout cup.

Mr Caddick went on to referee from 1958 in the West Bromwich Amateur League and Wolverhampton Works League, before graduating to the Worcestershire Combination and West Midlands leagues.

Of his time at Bloomfield, he said: "We had some pretty good players I remember. Our outstanding player was Reg Pulley who

played inside left. I was hoping to see him but I haven't spoken to him for years. I know two or three of the team have passed away, which is a great shame."

Old films of some of the club's milestone events and anniversaries were played, as cine footage from 1963-1986 had been converted into DVDs. Children could be seen trying to flip pancakes in old photographs, while others captured old sports teams and bonfires.

Roger Hill, the former boys club leader, and a retired former owner of CBS a Dudley architectural ironmongery company, went through the boys club and youth club himself before becoming one of its leaders.

The 66-year-old, who lives in Mansion Close, Dudley, said around 145 former members, spanning four generations, had attended the reunion. He added: "For me, my favourite memory is just the comradeship. The club's motto was loyalty and service and I think that's really shown in the number of people who came."



Linda Greaves and Jackie Whitehouse with an old photograph

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# Lola at the Copa, hottest spot north of Halesowen



Fleur Petford, of Kingswinford, as Lola with Mitchell Bastable as Tony and showgirls Toni Oakley and Beth Henwood

**BARRY Manilow's glamorous musical Copacabana will be brought to life on a Black Country stage next week.**

Members of Cradley Heath-based TAB Operatic Society are busy rehearsing for performances which will run from April 8 to 12. The musical takes place at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

It tells the story of the romance between Tony, played by society newcomer Mitchell Bastable, and his showgirl girlfriend Lola, who will

be played by Fleur Petford. Co-stars include long-standing TAB member Louise Griffin and Grant Chapman, while taking to the stage as the villain Rico will be John Nicholas and Sarah Oliver as his partner Conchita.

## Glittering

Audrey Henwood, spokeswoman for TAB Operatic said: "It's a very glittering and glamorous show set in the 1950s. It's a good light-hearted show which will be enjoyed by all."

Written by Barry Manilow and inspired by his hit song of the same name, Copacabana only became avail-

able to amateur companies and schools in 2006.

Performances will take place at 7.15pm at the Civic Hall in Bank Street and there will be a 2pm matinee on April 12. Tickets cost between £10 and £13.50 and are available on 07722417962.

Last year, the society performed the classic Hollywood musical High Society.

Members rehearse on Friday nights at Dudley Wood Methodist Church.

For more information visit the company's website at [www.taboperatic.com](http://www.taboperatic.com)

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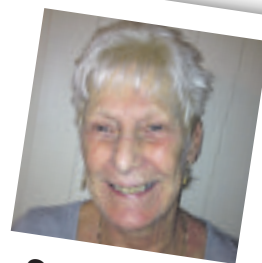
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# Church attendances rising across region

**CHURCH** attendances across Dudley and Worcestershire are rising, according to the latest figures.

An extra 400 worshippers flocked to a weekly service in the Diocese of Worcester in 2012 — a rise of 2.7 per cent on the previous year.

Figures showed that that in an average week 14,800 people attended a service in 2012, compared to 14,400 in 2011.

The number of people attending on an average Sunday also increased from 11,500 to 11,900.

## Bishop

The statistics from 2012 also showed that in the Diocese of Worcester there were more than 1,000 weddings, over 2,500 baptisms and over 3,000 funeral services conducted by Church of England clergy either in churches or crematoria/cemeteries. More than 18,000 people attended services at Easter and 36,800 attended a Christmas service.

Bishop of Worcester Dr John Inge said: "Churches throughout Worcestershire and Dudley have been working hard to proclaim God's great love for everyone and reach out to their local communities."

"Alongside the traditional Sunday services, many now provide a variety of other less formal kinds of worship."

"I believe that this increase in attendance reflects this work and demonstrates that the Church and Jesus are as relevant to people's lives now as they have ever been."

Meanwhile, the number of adult worshippers going to a weekly service in the Diocese of Lichfield, which covers Staffordshire and parts of the Black Country, increased to 28,300 in 2012 — a rise of almost four per cent on the previous year.

Attendances at church have generally remained stable over the past 10 years with only a slight decline.

Overall in 2012, just over one million people attended Church of England churches across the country each week.

## Community plan for pub



**A church has a scheme to convert the Golden Cross pub at Netherton**

A £500,000 project to transform a derelict pub into a modern community hub has been revealed.

Campaigners intend to submit a application to the National Lottery for cash to transform the Golden Cross pub, in Netherton.

Members of Primrose Hill Congregational Church, known as PHCC, have already held talks with the pub's owners about their plans.

Vandals have destroyed much of the inside of the pub, which stands at the corner of Cradley Road and Saltwells Road.

Church members see potential in the building becoming a focal point to bring all sections of the community together.

They have already started to draw up ideas for the building involving a complete makeover.

Church leader John Williams said: "We want the building to be a good community hub where people can come and feel comfortable, especially if they feel lonely. We know this is going to be a long journey but the local community deserve somewhere that is really good."

## Salon is launched at centre for blind

A new hair and beauty salon was launching this week at the headquarters of a West Midlands sight charity.

The salon, called New Beginnings, is located at Beacon Centre for the Blind in Wolverhampton Road East, Sedgley.

Salon owners Angela Wilson and Jo Smith are both former hair and beauty teachers at Wolverhampton College.

Jo said: "We are proud to open our salon at the Beacon Centre's building in Sedgley and hope it will encourage more people through the doors, not only to visit us but to learn more about this wonderful charity and its services."

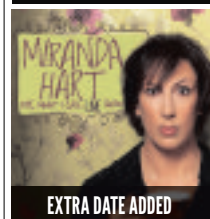
Beacon Centre chief executive Arwyn Jones said: "We're delighted that New Beginnings are opening here at the Beacon Centre and we welcome them to our building."

"The salon looks fantastic and we hope as many people as possible will visit and book in for a spot of pampering."

"Our Sedgley centre has so much to offer local people such as a conference centre, an award winning restaurant and fabulous charity shop. It's also an important hub for people who are visually impaired to meet other people and share experiences, as well as participating in arts and crafts, music, fitness and IT sessions provided by the charity."

Call 01902 883926 for further details.

It's all **HAPPENING...** LG Arena the nia



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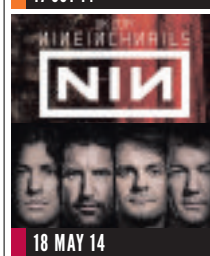
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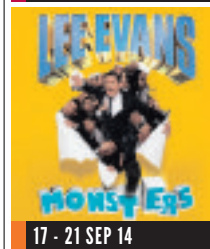
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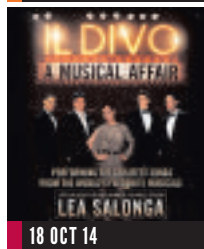
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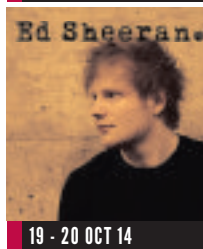
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**Express & Star**

# Film star is to play the blues at Bilston

**ACTION** movie star Steven Seagal is bringing his blues band to Bilston for two concerts in the summer.

The American actor, who has made more than 40 films since his debut in 1988, is a bona fide blues musician and his band will include Big Bill Morganfield, son of blues legend Muddy Waters.

The star of *Under Siege*, *On Deadly Ground* and *Machete* will be performing at the Robin 2 venue on Monday and Tuesday, July 21 and 22.

Robin boss Mike Hamblett said: "We hosted three sensational sold out shows with Steven Seagal back in 2008. It is obviously fantastic news that Steven requested to come back to the Robin 2 for two nights with his new all-star blues band as part of a UK tour."

Seagal has actually been a musician a lot longer than an actor, he got his first guitar at the age of 12 and has been playing the blues ever since. He has honed his craft over the years sharing his love for the blues and jamming with such blues legends as BB King, Bo Diddley, John Lee Hooker and, his greatest influence, Clarence 'Gatemouth' Brown.

Tickets are priced £27.50 in advance, £30 on the door.

by Leon Burakowski

Contact [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk) or call (01902) 401211.

Seagal has recently put a statement on his website in response to comments in the US media over his friendship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who he has described as one of the world's great leaders.

"I am a staunchly proud US citizen," he says in the statement. "I have served as a US police officer for 25 years and put my life at risk on numerous occasions for my country."

"Any discussions I have had with the Russian President have been as a personal friend of mine and for the primary purpose of helping to create a situation where the US and Russia can become better friends and better allies."

## No contradiction for Paloma city dates



**Paloma Faith**— concerts in Wolverhampton and Birmingham

POP star Paloma Faith is returning to her favourite West Midlands venue, Wolverhampton Civic Hall, as part of her autumn/winter tour.

When the London singer performs in the city on Saturday, November 22, it will mark the third time she has been in concert at the North Street venue.

She is currently in the top ten with her third album, *A Perfect Contradiction*, and next month releases her latest single, the ballad *Only Love Can Hurt Like This*.

Tickets for her Civic Hall gig range from £30.25 to £38.50 and go on sale tomorrow (Friday) from 9am. Call Midland Box Office 0870 320 7000 or online at the [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk) website.

Paloma will also be visiting Birmingham, for a concert at the Symphony Hall on Monday, November 10. See [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) or call 0121 345 0600.

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Then it's on to the amazing city of Acre. Explore the beautifully vaulted and huge Knights Halls which are in a state of almost unrivalled preservation and display medieval European military architecture. A stop in Nazareth is then made to visit the great church of the annunciation before continuing on to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

Crossing the Sea of Galilee by boat a visit is made to Capernaum, where Jesus lived, and nearby is Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Overlooking the whole area is the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount.

Surrounded by haunting desert scenery is the Dead Sea. Take a dip and bob like a cork – definitely one of life's must-do experiences! Then journey to the spectacular fortress of Masada, the site of one of the ancient Roman's greatest sieges and where the desert climate has preserved the site and the eight Roman encampments surrounding the fortress.

In Jerusalem there's so much to see and experience. Visit the Mount of Olives and the world's oldest continually used cemetery for a panoramic view of the ancient city, punctuated by the beautiful Dome of the Rock where Muhammed rose to heaven.

After touring the Garden of Gethsemane, enter the warren of streets and alleyways that make up the Old City. Visit the Western Wall and walk along the Via Dolorosa before finally arriving at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built over Golgotha where Jesus was crucified. The decoration here is astounding and contains the final five Stations of the Cross, the church is uniquely shared between the Catholic, Orthodox and Armenian churches.

A visit to the Yad Vashem is where the Holocaust memorial is located and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed.

Finally, arriving in Bethlehem, visit the Church of the Nativity and Shepherd's Fields. It is one of the oldest churches in the Holy Land still in use and marks the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus.



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# What's On!

## Bad boy Brand and a Grand dame

THE comedy scene this week is dominated by Miranda Hart with a gig at the LG Arena tomorrow night followed by a residency at the NIA from Tuesday to Thursday. She's not the only comic visiting Birmingham with bad boy Russell Brand bringing his Messiah Complex World Tour to the Hippodrome on Sunday and Radio 4 regular Lucy Porter at the Glee Club tomorrow night.

Grand panto dame Ceri Dupree returns to the Wolverhampton theatre on Sunday with a faaaabulous one-nighter. Eddy Brimson features at the Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club at the Slade Rooms tomorrow and Xtra Factor co-host Matt Richardson is at the same venue on Sunday night.

## Learned folk as academic has gig

AWARD-WINNING musician and academic Fay Hield and the Hurricane Party featuring Sam Sweeney, Andy Cutting, Rob Harbon and Roger Wilson will be playing at the Guild Hall, Lichfield, on Sunday. Tickets are £14, £12.60 members and £7 under-16s. Call the box office on 01543 262223. Fay, as part of the award-winning folk group The Full English, will be playing at Shrewsbury Folk Festival on August 25. Phil Beer, half of Show of Hands, will play at Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, on April 24. £12 on the door.

# Elbow anthems, Quo riffs and the return of the Manics

## Theatre's night of Evita stars

ANDREW Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's blockbuster Evita returns to Birmingham Hippodrome in Bill Kenwright's revival with former Wet Wet Wet star Marti Pellow as revolutionary Che Guevara.

Dictator Juan Peron's wife Eva will be played by powerful Portuguese leading lady Madalena Alberto. Expect a memorable Don't Cry For Me Argentina. Evita is at the Hippodrome from Tuesday, April 8, to Saturday, April 19.

A faithful staging of Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story is set in 50s New York at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre until April 19. Brass bands feature in miners' strike drama with music Breckinridge Grand from Tuesday to the following Saturday, April 12. Birmingham Rep's rollicking Threepenny Opera continues until April 12.



Marti Pellow and Madalena Alberto star in Evita

**MASTERS** of majestic melodic melancholy Elbow have secured their position as one of Britain's best loved bands and one of the few with songs really big enough to warrant a stadium singalong.

The former Ramsbottom pub band, who won Brit and Mercury prize nominations with their debut Asleep in the Back in 2001, recently released their sixth album The Take Off and Landing of Everything and have a gig at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena on Saturday night.

Lead singer Bury-born Guy Garvey, who also presents his own BBC Radio 6 show, will no doubt call upon a back catalogue that includes such anthems as One Day Like This, a song chosen to close London's 2012 Olympics, and Open Arms.

Elbow finally won the Mercury Prize in 2008 with The Seldom Seen Kid.

Support at their Birmingham concert will be a solo spot by Doves frontman Jimi Goodwin, who last week released his solo debut album Odludek.

Rock veterans Status Quo have a poignant twist to their concerts at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thursday) and next Thursday. The Frantic Four of Francis Rossi, Rick Parfitt, Alan Lancaster and John Coghlan will be supported by ex-Dr Feelgood guitarist Wilko Johnson. The terminally ill guitar legend from Canvey Island is enjoying the biggest success of his career with his collaboration album with The Who's Roger Daltrey, Going Back Home.

Hard rock Northern Irish trio Therapy? mark 20 years since their breakthrough album Troublelegum tomorrow at the Wulfrun Hall.

That's the same night that the surviving members of Ian Dury's band The Blockheads bring their Brit funk sound to the Robin 2 in Bilston to celebrate 35 years since Hit: Me With Your Rhythm Stick.

Welsh rockers Manic Street Preachers have sold out their gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday. Strictly Come Dancing pop star Sophie Ellis-Bextor is at the In-

## Wireless has an R&B star line-up

THE V Festival has a West Midlands rival. Like August's V, Wireless Festival will swap line-ups over two location but, unlike its rival, will be in cities - Birmingham's Perry Park and London's Finsbury Park. Wireless, on the July 4 to 6 weekend, has an R&B bias.

On Friday, Drake tops the bill, support includes Rudimental and Wiz Khalifa; on Saturday Bruno Mars headlines and acts include Ellie Goulding, John Newman, Clean Bandit, Bewley's Becky Hill, the return of Outkast and Salt-N-Pepa; on Sunday Kanye West closes the festival with Happy chart-topper Pharrell Williams.

Day and weekend tickets are available, see www.wirelessfestival.co.uk

## Lunar offering alternative fest

A BOUTIQUE festival specialising in alternative music, from psychedelic rock to weird folk, is arriving in Warwickshire.

The Lunar Festival is at the Umberslade Estate, Tanworth-in-Arden, five miles from M42 Junction 3.

The line-up on the June 6-8 weekend includes: Friday, British Sea Power, former Charlatans frontman Tim Burgess and Toy; Saturday, 60s star Donovan and Temples; Sunday, ex-Captain Beefheart musicians The Magic Band and only the Midlands date for Texan outfit The Polyphonic Spree. See lunarfestival.co.uk for details.



**Elbow ready to bring melodic melancholy** stitute in Digbeth on Monday. Gary Barlow will be playing his solo and Take That songs at the LG Arena on Tuesday and returns with his Since I Saw You Last tour on Saturday, April 19.

Mancunian punk veterans The Buzzcocks, whose Ever Fallen In Love must rate as one of the greatest pop songs, play the Robin 2 next Thursday.

The biggest musical event of next weekend will be the arrival of JT, as US star Justin Timberlake comes to Birmingham for concerts at the LG Arena on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12.

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Kylie Minogue

**The Voice UK: The Live Final (BBC1, 7pm)**  
This is it, folks. Kylie Minogue has cried all the tears that count, and will.i.am has stalled in his decision-making all that he'll be allowed – yep, they and fellow coaches Ricky Wilson and Sir Tom Jones have done everything they can to get their acts to the final. But now it's entirely out of their control, and here's where for one of them, all that hard work and emotional turmoil will pay off, as a winner is crowned. Each artist will perform a song of their choice, followed by an exclusive duet with their coach. The votes in so far will then be counted, and four will become three, as the one with the lowest score is given the elbow. Appearances from Paloma Faith and Aloe Blacc will temporarily ease the tension.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry Cooks. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis. Italy v Great Britain. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Film: Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. 6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 7.00 The Voice UK: The Live Final. After seven weeks of blind auditions, two battle shows, two knockout rounds and two live performances, the final is here – with just four contestants remaining, all eager to be crowned winner and pick up a recording contract. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present as Christina Maria, Jamie, Jermain and Sally perform a song of their own choice and then duet with their coaches, after which the singer with the fewest votes leaves the competition. The remaining three then get their final chance to prove they deserve the title with one more number, and while the public votes, the coaches perform together one last time. There will also be appearances from Paloma Faith and Aloe Blacc, and then it's the moment of truth for the hopefuls as they find out who has been voted The Voice UK 2014. Last in the series. 9.05 The National Lottery Live. I'm a Celebrity champion and former Westlife singer Kian Egan provides the music as Kate Garraway announces the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball draws. 9.15 Casualty. Connie, Zoe and Lily pull together to treat a father and his daughter, which proves easier said than done as the girl suffers from ADHD, while Charlie helps an old biker come to terms with his wife's dementia. Hospital drama, starring Amanda Mealing, Sunetra Sarker and Derek Thompson. 10.05 BBC News; Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Southampton and Cardiff City v Crystal Palace; National Lottery Update. 11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two. 11.10 Weatherview. 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00 Film:** The Saint in London. (1939) 7.05 Film: On Moonlight Bay. (1951) 8.40 The Living Planet. (R) 9.35 The Living Planet. (R) 10.30 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) 11.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 12.00 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.45 Live Women's International Football. England v Montenegro (Kick-off 12.55pm). 3.00 Film: The Glass Bottom Boat. (1966) Romantic comedy, starring Doris Day and Rod Taylor. 4.45 Mountain Gorilla. (R) 5.45 Collectaholics. (R) 6.45 Flag III People in Colchester. Essex, bring items to be valued before selling them at auction, including a glass vase bought for £1 in a charity shop. (R) 7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring sets up an observation post in the local lighthouse and annoys the ARP wardens by flooding the whole town with light during an air raid. (R) 8.00 The Plantagenets. Robert Bartlett charts the events that led to the dynasty's downfall, with four kings being violently disposed in the last century of the Plantagenets' reign. Last in the series. (R) 9.00 Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces action from the session in the third round of the season at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakir. Nico Rosberg qualified on pole here last year, and the Mercedes driver is expected to be among the leading contenders for maximum points after a promising start to the campaign that sees him lead the drivers' championship. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard. 10.15 Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. The comedian explores the topic of marriage in stand-up routines, interspersed with Chris Morris grilling him about his ideas and ending with a short film. Last in the series. 10.45 QI XL. Extended edition. Stephen Fry finds out how much Greg Proops, David O'Doherty, Reginald D Hunter and regular panellist Alan Davies know about jungles. 11.30 Film: Welcome to Collinwood. (2002) Five boring crooks find their tangled personal lives getting in the way of pulling off a robbery. Crime comedy remake, starring Sam Rockwell, William H Macy and George Clooney. 12.50 Film: Beauty & the Briefcase. (2010) 2.15 This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Om Nom Stories. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 10.20 Dinner Date. (R) 11.20 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 The Crocodile Hunter: Diaries. (R) 12.30 Film: Twins. (1988) Comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. 2.30 The Chase. (R) 3.30 Midsummer Murders. (R) 5.30 Regional Programme. Weather. 5.40 ITV News; Weather. 6.00 You've Been Framed! Presents. Comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' home videos. Showcased in this edition are some of the narrator's most absurd thoughts on a variety of subjects, from the population of Gibraltar to an opinionated foetus. 7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Georgie duo go head to head in their most daring round of Ant v Dec to date as the entertainment show goes out with a bang, and Robbie Williams joins in the fun, taking part in a performance at the end of the programme. Another mystery celebrity features in the live sing-along, all the winners of Place on the Plane jet off to Florida, and a member of the studio audience plays to win the items advertised in one of last week's commercial breaks. Last in the series. 8.25 The Cube. A telecoms trainer and a student nurse face up to seven trials of skill, dexterity, reaction, wit and wisdom in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. 9.25 Law & Order: UK. The hunt for the killer of a seemingly innocent family man brings Ronnie into contact with his old boss, former DI Natalie Chandler, whose father is accused of the crime. (R) 10.25 The Americans. Claudia hands the spies two assignments – Phillip is told to monitor a Soviet defector, and Elizabeth must try to get information from a naval recruit about the Connors' murders. 11.25 ITV News; Weather. 11.40 Through the Keyhole. Jonathan Ross and Denise Van Outen join Dave Berry on the panel as Keith Lemon visits three mystery homes and challenges them to guess the identities of the famous occupants. 12.40 Jackpot247. 3.00 in Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Trans World Sport. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 Weekend Brunch – From the Grand National. 1.00 The Grand National. Live coverage of the world's most famous steeplechase at Aintree. 5.15 Fifteen to One. 6.15 Channel 4 News. 6.35 Lent Diaries. New series. In the run-up to Easter, this series of short films provides an insight into the lives of people who worship in Britain's West African churches. 6.40 Gadget Man. Richard Ayodea embarks on a luxury camping trip with actor Stephen Mangani, trying out the world's biggest penknife, a unique tent and the latest in virtual reality. (R) 7.10 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Coulson goes on the attack to save a gravely injured Skye by enlisting the aid of Ward's former senior officer John Garrett (guest star Bill Paxton). In the process he uncovers some shocking truths about S.H.I.E.L.D and his own life. Clark Gregg stars in the fantasy adventure. (R) 8.05 Hostages. Ellen reveals to Duncan that she will not kill the president, but offers to help him obtain the bone marrow he needs to save his wife, as long as he provides something in return – a promise to protect her children. However, Nina is furious about her husband's plan and becomes determined to thwart him. Toni Collette, Dylan McDermott and Frankie Swift star in the US drama. 9.00 Film: Colombiana. (2011) Premiere. A 10-year-old Colombian girl witnesses the murder of her parents at the hands of gangsters, but is rescued by her uncle, who takes her to the US and raises her to be a cold-blooded killer. Years later, she is still working for him as an assassin, but is secretly planning to avenge her parents' deaths. Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana. 11.10 Film: The Guard. (2011) Premiere. A laidback Irish policeman finds his simple life disrupted by a drug-smuggling operation and an uptight FBI agent. Comedy thriller, with Brendan Gleeson. 1.05 Film: Hard Eight. (1996) 2.45 Holyoaks. (R) 4.50 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.45 SuperScribers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** 10.00 Meerkat Manor. (R) 10.30 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 11.30 Hercules the Human Bear. (R) 12.30 Film: McBride: Anybody Here Murder Marty? (2005) Mystery, starring John Larroquette. 2.10 Film: Columbo: Mind Over Mayhem. (1974) Detective drama, with Peter Falk. 3.45 Film: Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Honor Blackman. 5.40 Film: Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise. (2006) Crime drama sequel, starring Tom Selleck. 7.15 Longmire. Walt and Vic are called to the scene of a barn fire that has claimed the lives of a string of prize horses and one man, believed to be breeder Ray Stewart. The evidence suggests he committed suicide after setting the building alight, but his wife Alice admits that before she met him her husband was involved with the Mob and had assumed a new identity to escape them. Crime drama, starring Robert Taylor. 8.05 NCIS. Tony travels to North Africa on the trail of missing agent Ziva, who is thought to have been tracking down a terrorist leader called Saleem Ulman. Intent on exacting revenge for her apparent death during a flight to Somalia, he is taken hostage by militants and discovers she is still alive – only to be given a potentially catastrophic ultimatum. Starring Mark Harmon and Cote de Pablo. (R) 9.00 5 News Weekend. 9.05 Most Shocking Moments in Pop. A countdown focusing on outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, from unbelievable antics and ferocious feuds, to break-ups, meltdowns and untimely deaths. Featuring Miley Cyrus's performance at the 2013 Video Music Awards, Britney Spears shaving her head, teen heart-throb Justin Bieber relieving himself into a bucket while at a restaurant and Kanye West storming onto the stage at the 2009 VMAs while Taylor Swift was picking up an award. 12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.10 Comedy. Fleeced and Left for Broke. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.20 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three** 7.00 Great TV Mistakes 7.30 Doctor Who 8.20 Top Gear 9.20 Film: Tropic Thunder (2008) 11.00 Family Guy 12.50 Bluestone 42 3.50 Great TV Mistakes 4.00 Close **BBC Four** 7.00 Wild Wales 8.00 Chemistry – A Volatile History 9.00 Inspector De Luca 10.50 Jet! When Britain Ruled the Skies 12.50 Top of the Pops: 1979 1.30 Sounds of the 70s 2 Punk – Anarchy on the BBC 2.00 Chemistry – A Volatile History 3.00 Wild Wales 4.00 Close **ITV2** 12.55 The Only Way Is Essex 2.30 You've Been Framed! 3.00 Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003) 4.45 Britain's Got More Talent: Most Amazing Moments 5.50 Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002) 7.55 Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.50 Crazy Beaches 11.20 Film: The Faculty (1998) 10.25 Fake Reaction 2.05 Dads 2.25 You've Been Framed! 2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** 12.05 Agatha Christie's Marple 2.10 Film: Out of Africa (1985) 5.20 Foyle's War 7.20 Rosemary & Thyme 8.25 Doc Martin 9.25 Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey 10.30 Cold Blood II 12.05 A Touch of Frost 2.05 Judge Judy 2.25 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping **ITV4** 3.15 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 4.50 Film: Where Eagles Dare (1969) 8.00 Ali: Still the Greatest 9.00 Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) 11.10 Film: Bowling (1999) 1.10 Benidorm 2.05 The Professionals 3.00 The Store **E4** 2.00 The Big Bang Theory 3.00 Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special 4.00 Rude (ish) Tube 5.00 How I Met Your Mother 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: There's Something About Mary (1998) 11.25 Rude Tube 12.30 The Big Bang Theory 1.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.45 2 Broke Girls 3.10 The Cleveland Show 3.55 Made in Chelsea 4.50 Ugly Betty **Film4** 1.00 Crocodile Dundee (1986) 2.50 Tea with Mussolini (1999) 5.05 Black Knight (2001) 6.55 Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) 9.00 Devil (2010) Five strangers trapped in a lift realise that one of them is the Devil come to harvest souls, but do not know which one. Horror, starring Chris Messina and Bokeem Woodbine. 10.35 The Divide (2011) 12.50 The Fountain (2006) 2.50 Close

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7pm - Bagderidge Social Club, Straits Road, The Straits, Lower Gornal  
6pm - Brickhouse Community Centre, Dudhill Road, Rowley Regis  
6pm - Roseville Methodist Church, School St/ Bayer St, Roseville, Coseley  
7pm - The Bird in Hand 57 John Street, Wordsley

**Wednesdays**  
6.45pm - St Andrews Church Centre, (use entrance off car park at rear of church), Room 3 upstairs, Bilston St, Sedgley  
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## CHOICE


**The Crimson Field (BBC1, 9pm)**

When it was first announced, the BBC's First World War season seemed to be heavy on documentaries (as you would expect) and little else. However, this new drama series should prove to be one of the highlights. It's been painstakingly researched by writer Sarah Phelps, who has aimed to bring back to life what it was like to work in and be treated at a tented field hospital near the front line in France. A superb cast, which includes Suranne Jones, Hermione Norris, Oona Chaplin and Kerry Fox, bring the characters to life. The first episode follows the fortunes of volunteer nurses Kitty, Flora and Rosalie when they meet new Sister Joan Livesey, whose modern approach ruffles a few feathers...

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Italy v Great Britain. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** The Boat Race. Live coverage of the 160th University Boat Race.

**6.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **Countryfile**. Tom Heap meets Princess Anne at her home, Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire, which she runs as a working farm. The princess discusses many of the issues confronting the British countryside and gives Tom a rare glimpse into her life on the estate. Gloucestershire is also the home of presenter Ellie Harrison, who wants ideas on what to do with her more modest smallholding, and visits Kew Gardens for advice on planting native wild flowers. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce presents the first of two special editions marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. She and a small group of experts travel to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme in France, where visitors tell their family stories of the conflict, with various items helping to bring their tales to life. Objects include pictures of horses sent to war painted by a doctor serving on the frontline, bronze sculptures of troops modelled from trench clay and the belongings of a woman who treated wounded soldiers. Fiona also meets a 101-year-old lady who still remembers one of the first bombing raids on Britain, when she and her classmates hid under their school desks.

**9.00** **The Crimson Field**. New series. Drama following the doctors, nurses and volunteers in a French First World War field hospital. A new sister's modern approach raises eyebrows. Suranne Jones stars.

**10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**10.25** Match of the Day 2. Everton v Arsenal and West Ham United v Liverpool.

**11.30** **The Graham Norton Show**. (R) **12.15** Film: Jacknife. (1989) **1.55** Weatherview. **2.00** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.30** Countryfile. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. **10.30** Live Davis Cup Tennis. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.45** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Huddersfield Giants v St Helens (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.30** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Italy v Great Britain. **5.30** Flop It!

**6.30** **Inspire: The Olympic Journey**. Magazine series presented by Gabby Logan, who meets wheelchair racing legend David Weir in Portugal as he prepares for next month's London Marathon.

**7.00** **Great Barrier Reef**. Monty Hall explores the extraordinary ecosystem that covers an area larger than Great Britain, revealing that only seven per cent of it is coral reef. The rest is a variety of interconnected habitats, including hundreds of islands, mangrove swamps, deep-water gardens, vast sand flats, meadows of sea grass and what is said to be the world's oldest jungle. All are interconnected by a giant deep-water lagoon – and all are full of amazing wildlife. (R)

**8.00** **Border Country: The Story of Britain's Lost Middleland**. Part two of two. Rory Stewart reveals how a thousand years after the Romans left, Britain split once again near the line of Hadrian's Wall into the kingdoms of England and Scotland. The historian examines how the borderlands became a zone of anarchy and violence.

**9.00** **Louis Theroux's LA Stories**. Louis spends time at Los Angeles hostels that are home to sex offenders who are out on parole, and speaks to the people charged with monitoring them. Last in the series.

**10.00** **Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Highlights**. Suzi Perry presents action from the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, as the drivers contested the third race of the season.

**11.30** **Film: Cross of Iron**. (1977) A German sergeant on the Russian front in 1943 is sickened by an officer who risks men's lives for his own glory. Second World War drama, with James Coburn.

**1.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.35** Holby City. (R) **3.35** Silk. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Fitter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Film: Columbus: No Time to Die. (1992) **1.25** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.55** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.00** Martin Clunes: Man to Manta. (R) **4.00** Film: For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore.

**6.20** **Regional Programme**; Weather.

**6.30** **ITV News**; Weather.

**6.45** **Catchphrase**. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

**7.30** **Off Their Rockers**. New series. Hidden-camera pranks. A trip to the vet ends in an unusual cat fight.

**8.00** **Endeavour**. As England and Argentina kick off in the World Cup quarter-final, Oxford's streets are deserted. At an almost empty museum, Adrian Weiss, a specialist in heraldry and genealogy, is found dead – slain by a ceremonial dagger with links to 19th-century India. An entry in the visitors' book leads Morse to a girls' boarding school, where a note reading "Save Me" is mysteriously slipped into his coat pocket. Digging into the building's troubled history, he finds a connection between Weiss's untimely fate and a series of unsolved murders that occurred on the school's grounds almost 100 years earlier. 1960s-set drama, starring Shaun Evans, with Roger Allam, Anton Lesser, James Bradshaw and Abigail Thaw.

**10.00** **ITV News at Ten**; Weather.

**10.15** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Torvill & Dean**. The ice-dancing duo discuss the challenges they have faced in life, including Christopher's separation from his mother at a young age and Jayne's struggle to start a family. (R)

**11.15** **The Cube**. Two more contestants – Jamie from Edinburgh and Dean from Cardiff – try to complete tasks within the confines of the Cube. (R)

**12.15** The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** Street Veldrome. **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. **7.35** How I Met Your Mother. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** Film: Hairspray. (2007) Musical comedy. **5.40** Deal or No Deal.

**6.35** **Channel 4 News**.

**6.55** **Lent Diaries**. In the run-up to Easter, this series of short films provides an insight into the lives of people who worship in Britain's West African churches.

**7.00** **Iceman Murder Mystery**. Scientists examine the preserved corpse of "Otzi", a Neolithic man found frozen in a glacier in the Alps in 1991. They hope their autopsy will teach them more about life 5,000 years ago – but have only eight hours to carry out their analysis before the body must be returned to storage to prevent decomposition. Will the experts be able to find out how he died?

**8.00** **Return of the Black Death: Secret History**. One of the most devastating pandemics in human history, the Black Death swept through London in 1348, killing old and young, rich and poor, within days of their first symptoms. Received wisdom has long suggested the culprit was bubonic plague, spread by the fleas of infected rats. This documentary follows experts from a range of disciplines as they pick through the evidence, reveal why the disease killed on such a large scale, and discuss how it still poses a threat today.

**9.00** **Film: The Grey**. (2011) Premiere. Eight oil rig workers end up stranded in the middle of the Alaskan tundra when the plane flying them home crashes. With limited supplies, they must make a gruelling journey across the icy wilderness to civilisation, but their situation is made more perilous when a pack of ferocious wolves begins slaughtering them. Adventure, starring Liam Neeson.

**11.20** **Film: What Lies Beneath**. (2000) Supernatural thriller, starring Michelle Pfeiffer.

**1.40** The Good Wife. (R) **2.25** The Hotel. (R) **3.20** Secret Removers. (R) **4.15** SuperScrimpers. (R) **4.40** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.35** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.50** Deal or No Deal. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Filf and the Flowerrots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pajamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina: The Next Steps. (R) **8.35** Mio Mao. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.10** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Film: National Security. (2003) Action comedy, starring Martin Lawrence and Steve Zahn. **2.45** Film: Are We Done Yet? (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Ice Cube. **4.30** Film: Alpha and Omega. (2010) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Justin Long.

**6.05** **Film: Surf's Up**. (2007) Animated comedy about a penguin who leaves his Antarctic home to surf in a prestigious tournament on a tropical island. Featuring the voices of Jeff Bridges and Shia LaBeouf.

**7.45** **5 News Weekend**.

**7.50** **Film: Ladder 49**. (2004) A fireman becomes trapped in a burning building and, aware his chances of survival are slim, reflects on the events that led him to his chosen career. He recalls his rise from the station's laughing stock to a respected member of the team, and the effect his dangerous profession has had on his family. Meanwhile, his mentor is battling to get him out of the building alive. Drama, with Joaquin Phoenix, John Travolta, Jacinda Barrett and Robert Patrick. Edited for language.

**10.00** **Film: The Next Three Days**. (2010) A professor tries to prove his imprisoned wife is innocent of murder, but when he fails, he decides to break her out instead. Drama, starring Russell Crowe.

**12.25** World's Scariest Drivers. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** The Voice UK: The Live Final **9.05** Hair **10.05** Family Guy **10.50** American Dad! **11.35** Bad Education **12.05** Killer Magic **12.35** Impractical Jokers **1.35** Life and Death Row **3.50** Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Kill **4.00** Close

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Film: The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956) **9.00** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **10.00** Hiccate: A Garden for All Seasons **11.00** Natural World **12.00** The Wonder of Weeds **1.00** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **2.00** Hiccate: A Garden for All Seasons **3.00** Natural World **4.00** Close

**ITV2**  
**12.55** You've Been Framed! **1.30** Film: Casper (1995) **3.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.00** Film: Cats & Dogs (2001) **6.55** Film: Year One (2009) **9.00** Film: Fast & Furious (2009) **11.10** Party Wrought Around the World **12.00** Trick: Favourite Tricks **1.10** Mon **2.00** The Vampire Diaries **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**  
**1.45** Rosemary & Thyme **2.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Birds of a Feather **9.30** Vicious **10.05** Film: Something's Gotta Give (2003) **12.40** Cracker **1.50** Film: All Creatures Great and Small (1973) **3.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

**ITV4**  
**1.50** Film: The Last Sunset (1961) **4.10** Film: Night Passage (1957) **6.00** Storage Wars **8.00** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1969) **11.10** Film: Born on the Fourth of July (1989) **2.00** I Want That Car **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** The Store **5.4**

**12.35** Revenge **1.35** Rude(ish) Tube **2.30** Come Dine With Me: Made in Chelsea Special **3.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Star Trek: Insurrection (1998) **10.05** Rude Tube **11.05** My Mad Fat Diary **12.10** Rules of Engagement **1.10** The Cleveland Show **2.05** Bob's Burgers **3.15** Hollyoaks

**Film4**  
**1.00** Eragon (2006) **3.00** At the Earth's Core (1976) **4.50** Congo (1995) **6.55** The Company Men (2010) **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia. **11.20** Submarine (2010) **1.10** Ikuru (1952) **4.00** Close

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## Film Choices

### MONDAY

**Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match**, Channel 5, 3.20pm  
An American chess champion fears he is about to be beaten by a superior player from Russia, and decides the only sure-fire way he can avoid defeat is by murdering his opponent. Detective drama, starring Peter Falk, Laurence Harvey and Jack Kruschen. (1973)

### TUESDAY

**The Box**, BBC1, 11.20pm

A couple are given a mysterious wooden box with a button on it and told that if they press it, they will be given a million dollars but that someone somewhere in the world will die. After pressing the button, they fear they may be the next victim when the box is passed on, and try to find out how and why this is happening. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden. (2008)

### WEDNESDAY

**Employee of the Month**, Channel 4, 12.35am

A lazy shelf stacker suddenly finds the motivation for hard work when he becomes smitten with a new cashier who only dates men who have been awarded employee of the month. However, he faces stiff competition for both the title and the girl in the shape of an ambitious checkout attendant. Comedy, starring Dane Cook, Dax Shepard and Jessica Simpson. (2006)



The Box, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.20pm

### THURSDAY

**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**, BBC2, 9pm

Bruno, a boy in Nazi Germany, moves to the country when his father is placed in charge of a concentration camp. While exploring the woods close to the facility's boundary, he spots a Jewish youngster being held there, and the two become friends – but Bruno remains innocently oblivious to the camp's true purpose. Drama, starring David Thewlis and Jack Scanlon. (2008)

### FRIDAY

**The Bourne Identity**, ITV, 10.35pm

A fishing boat crew plucks a man out of the sea with two bullet wounds in his back and a safe-deposit number sewn into his skin – but absolutely no memory of who he is or how he got there. In the search for his true identity, he is pursued by assassins – but his skill at evading them suggest his own past is far from straightforward. Thriller, starring Matt Damon. (2002)

**Shooting Dogs**, BBC2, 12.05am

Drama set against the backdrop of the Rwandan genocide. Two Englishmen – one an idealistic teacher, the other a world-weary priest – must decide whether to flee to safety or stay and help the Tutsi refugees who have taken shelter from the Hutu in a local school. Starring John Hurt and Hugh Dancy. (2006)

## Pick of the Week

# A new take on caring upsets the old guard

When it was first announced, the BBC's First World War season seemed to be as heavy on documentaries (as you would expect) and little else.

However, this new drama series should prove to be one of the highlights.

It's been painstakingly researched by writer Sarah Phelps, who has aimed to bring back to life what it was like to work in and be treated at a tented field hospital near the front line in France.

"I hope viewers get a sense of the scale of the war, and that it comes from it from a slightly different perspective," says Phelps. "Not at the Front, we are further back, but nonetheless this is where men were healed and put back together again, or not, and there's a real sense of being at the cutting edge of life and death."

The writer, who previous worked with executive producer Anne Pivovc on an adaptation of Great Expectations, took the book The Roses of No Man's Land by Lyn

MacDonald as a starting point before embarking on further reading.

"I am amazed at the stuff I never knew, especially about the medical and the surgical and the nursing aspects," she reveals.

"I found looking at contemporary photographs at the time – cameras were banned at the Front but people sneaked them through and took all sorts of pictures – they tell an incredible story."

She adds: "One of my favourite bits and the most resonant for me was an ad hoc journal that had been typed up, and it was memories of hospital..."

"This tiny little description of the sound of a young volunteer girl from a sheltered background in England, who was now standing in a tented ward somewhere in France, whisking egg whites with a fork, to feed to a man whose face had been blown off – the sound of her fork against the side of the bowl – that's an image that went like a knife into my heart."

Phelps has incorporated that story in the screenplay, and it's touching

moments and details such as that which helped attract a starry cast – Suranne Jones, Hermione Norris, Oona Chaplin and Kerry Fox are among those bringing the characters to life.

"I think with casting we got some brilliant people in," explains Phelps. "Generally you watched the auditions, and you knew when that person had arrived. You know when that character is there!"

"It's really exciting when you know that right actor has arrived and is doing it right in front of you. That's a real thrill."

The first episode follows the fortunes of Kitty, Flora and Rosalie when they volunteer to work at a busy war hospital.

They face as tough a battle as the men at the Front – although their fight involves keeping soldiers alive and tending to their often terrible wounds.

By the end of the day the girls have been joined by Sister Joan Livesey, whose modern approach ruffles a few feathers...



Oona Chaplin stars in The Crimson Field, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

## Best of the Rest

### MONDAY

**Undeniable**

ITV, 9pm

If the fact that this thriller is written by acclaimed writer Chris Lang isn't enough to make you drop what you're doing and tune in, how about the fact that the likes of renowned actors Claire Goose and Peter Firth are signed up to the leads? Yes, we thought that might get your attention. Jane Phillips (Goose) was just seven years old at the time of a brutal attack which she survived, but left her mother dead – and the killer was never found. Now, Jane is pregnant with her second child, and as she attends an antenatal clinic, she claps eyes on the man she's adamant is responsible for her mother's death. But Andrew Rawlins (Firth) is in fact a well-respected consultant oncologist and Jane has wrongly identified suspects before...

**The Treasure Hunters**

BBC1, 9pm

As you can probably imagine, the precious metals industry is big business – the clue is in the name: 'precious'. So with all manner of multinational companies out to find the world's natural treasures, Dallas Campbell and Ellie Harrison may have their work cut out tracking down some of their own – but they're no strangers to a challenge, having presented numerous science and wildlife based programmes between them. That's what this new two-parter is all about: science and nature combine as the pair travel the world in search of truly spectacular hauls, whether it's gems, minerals and metals, or the lucrative by-products of marine wildlife – including pearls and ambergris.

### TUESDAY

**The Battle for Britain's Breakfast**

BBC2, 9pm

In the red corner: TV-am, including the likes of Anne Diamond, Nick Owen, David Frost, Angela Rippon, Lorraine Kelly and Kay Burley; in the blue corner: the BBC's Breakfast Time, with the likes of Sue Cook, Jill Dando, Fern Britton, David Icke, Nick Ross and Jeremy Paxman. Thus the battle lines were drawn in 1983, when breakfast television rose to prominence and the two big players fought for supremacy for the best part of a decade. In this documentary, famous faces from morning TV shows past and present drop in to discuss what life was like before this time, when morning viewing choices were limited to educational shows or the test card, and after.

### WEDNESDAY

**Ian Hislop's Olden Days – The Power of the Past in Britain**

BBC2, 9pm

It's no secret that we British have a long-held fascination with the past, which just means that the Beeb have even more license to throw another remarkable documentary into the schedules – and Ian Hislop's added his name to the latest films. The satirist explores our obsession with the olden days, and reveals how and why we seem to constantly hark back to the past to make sense of the present. Over the next three weeks, drawing upon the work of Britain's minstrels,

storytellers, poets, painters and architects, Ian will demonstrate how influential the olden days have always been. In the first instalment, he reveals how from 1066 to today, we've looked back to the Dark Ages, and explores various spins put on the lives of King Arthur and Alfred the Great through the ages.

**The £60,000 Puppy: Cloning Man's Best Friend**

Channel 4, 10pm

Soam Biotech might not mean anything to you at the moment – but it soon will. That's because after viewing this programme, you're not likely to forget it in a hurry. Soam Biotech are the only company in the world with the technology to clone dogs, and Britain's most obsessive dog owners have been given the chance to 'immortalise' their canine friend free – quite a bargain, really, given that the process usually costs £60,000. Cameras follows the South Korean team as they travel our land, meeting eccentric dog lovers who can't even contemplate life without their pet. The film looks at the initial meetings throughout the cloning process, and the cutting-edge science behind it.



Undeniable, Monday, ITV, 9pm

### THURSDAY

**Digby Jones: The New Troubleshooter**

BBC2, 8pm

No offence to Mary 'Queen of Shops' Portas, Alex 'The Fixer' Polizzi, or Gordon Ramsay and his Kitchen Nightmares, but for many people, the ultimate TV business guru is former ICI chairman John Harvey-Jones, better known to viewers in the 1990s as The Troubleshooter. So, Digby Jones has a big job ahead of him as he takes on the mantle for this new, three-part series – but luckily his CV suggests he's the perfect person to advise struggling businesses. The first enterprise to get the benefit of his expertise is Hereford Furniture, a family-owned company which recently recorded a loss. They grant Jones access to every area of the operation over the course of five months – but will they agree with his conclusions?

### FRIDAY

**The Trip to Italy**

BBC2, 10pm

Series one of this Steve Coogan/Rob Brydon comedy travelogue was one of the most engaging shows of recent years, and this second episode, partly set at sea, is a welcome break from the road trip format. Aside from colouring in Coogan's relationship with his screen son (who's in Ibiza), we suspect all is not well with Brydon's screen wife; at least he lightens the mood with more default Tom Jones impressions. When the travelling mates arent on a yacht with their Sloane ranger guide (Anthony Hopkins/Captain Bligh impression provided as standard), they're sampling more fine Italian cuisine while reflecting on middle age.

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# Brain Gym

No.267

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

3	16	6	5		4		17	1	5	6
	14			3	11	1	7	1	25	20
23	14	16	5	6		23		13	24	5
	8			19		1		1	14	2
	10	3	11	24	8	8	21	16	17	14
25				21		21			21	6
1	16	23	1	20	21		18	1	11	2
16		24				5	12			9
2	6	8		10	26	1	17	16	14	23
1		8		24		11		21		2
23	26	6	11	20		1		10	14	2
11		2		10	6	22	8	26		4
21	16	5	14			9			10	21

1	14	O
2	15	
3	16	R
4	17	
5	18	
6	19	
7	20	
8	21	
9	22	
10	23	
11	24	
12	25	
13	26	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	F	B	K	O	U	N	D	H	L	P	T	Q
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
V	C	Z	E	R	G	I	A	M	W	J	Y	X

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

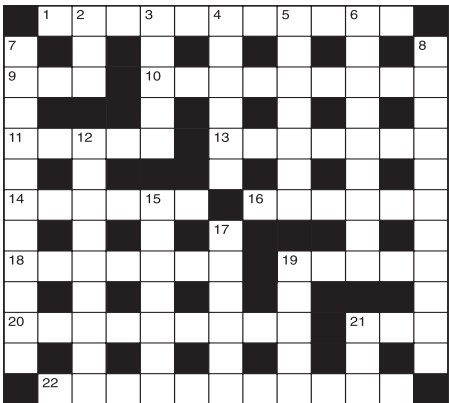
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Standard features of many thoroughfares (6-5)
- Sister who stays in a singular state (3)
- Those chosen rode with the conductor (9)
- Insist on only what is right? (5)
- Jack Brown's popular in Scotland (7)
- Time when all assets were frozen (3,3)
- Discovers Eastern secret agents (6)
- Inane is another way of putting this (7)
- Different names for a minister's house (5)
- Sid cheats perhaps and is punished (9)
- So unhealthy sounding (3)
- No more stars for star-gazers (11)

#### Down

- Not up to 100 mph? (3)
- Not inclined to build (5)
- Not a musical score (6)
- Dresses at first then grows weary (7)
- Trying time for a beginner (9)
- What is left (11)
- Doggedness is derived from its presence (11)
- They're a blend of the main races (9)
- Proverbially it's not an indication of gold (7)
- Time to make things palatable (6)
- Either way, it's a mode of address (5)
- One may be entitled to be called it (3)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Ruling (11)
- Single (3)
- Specific (9)
- Male duck (5)
- Correspondence (7)
- Lure (6)
- Oration (6)
- Compunction (7)
- Blackboard support (5)
- Disentangle (9)
- Colour (3)
- Unthankfulness (11)

#### Down

- Regret (3)
- Evade (5)
- Deaden sound (6)
- Unceasing (3,4)
- Dignity (9)
- Unfeeling (4,7)
- Tenant (11)
- Robot (9)
- Bearer (7)
- Leave (6)
- Bring to bear (5)
- Concealed (3)

## Sudoku

		4	5					6
6		3		8		5	1	
1					4		2	
			1	4			7	
7						6		3
	8				3	9		
5	2		3				1	9
	3	7		6				5
		1			5	3		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	2	3	1	5	9	8	4	7
1	9	8	4	2	7	3	6	5
5	4	7	8	3	6	9	1	2
3	7	2	6	1	4	5	8	9
9	6	5	2	8	3	4	7	1
8	1	4	7	9	5	6	2	3
7	5	1	9	4	8	2	3	6
2	8	9	3	6	1	7	5	4
4	3	6	5	7	2	1	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Miss; 3 Illusory; 9 Tedious; 10 Filly; 11 Disinherited; 13 Retire; 15 Accrue; 17 Empty protest; 20 Crown; 21 Incense; 22 Refusing; 23 Digs. Down: 1 Matadors; 2 Sides; 4 Lasses; 5 Unfair choice; 6 Outwear; 7 Yo-yo; 8 Corner stones; 12 Meatless; 14 Time off; 16 Option; 18 Ennui; 19 Scar. QUICK - Across: 1 Sewn; 3 Acquired; 9 Propose; 10 Defer; 11 Highland reel; 13 Refund; 15 Blithe; 17 Combinations; 20 Limbo; 21 Elector; 22 Sunshine; 23 Onus. Down: 1 Sapphire; 2 Wrong; 4 Cleans; 5 Underclothes; 6 Reflect; 7 Dare; 8 Polling booth; 12 Censures; 14 Footman; 16 Indeed; 18 Often; 19 Plus.

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# Property Warm to ways for cut in energy and home bills

WITH energy bills at record levels, the Heating Helpline has some energy saving advice on ways to improve insulation and lower bills.

Around 60 per cent of the energy used in the home is for heating – for most households that's many hundreds of pounds spent per year just to keep it warm.

B&ES, the Building & Energy Services Association, who operate the free consumer advice service the Heating Helpline, say too few households take sufficient measures to fully insulate their homes. This means a lot of energy – and money – is simply wasted. Yet there are simple steps to take, some costing very little, that can help keep the warmth in, so there is much less need to crank up the thermostat.

Here are the Heating Helpline's top 10 list of tips

1. If you have less than 10cm of insulation in your loft you'll be wasting energy. Top the insulation up to 27cm and you could save over £150 a year.
2. Since the 1930s, most houses have been built with an air cavity between two outer walls. Get this gap filled with insulating foam and you could save up to £200 a year on bills.
3. Floorboards lose a lot of heat. Insulation seal between the gaps can save you about £25 per year.
4. Insulate your hot water cylinder. Fitting a British Standard jacket around your cylinder will cut heat loss by over 75 per cent and save you around £40 a year – more than the cost of the jacket.
5. Lagging all your hot water pipes



**Top up your loft insulation and you could save more than £150 a year**  
could also save you more than £25 a year.

6. Badly-fitted doors and windows mean avoidable heat loss. Draught proofing doors and windows by sealing gaps will help save energy. A curtain at the front door and heavy, well-fitted curtains provide insulation and reduce draughts. To track down the source of draughts take a lit candle and see where it flickers.

7. Keep your doors and windows closed when the heating is on and save £15 a year.

8. Thermal blinds, which stay flush to the window frame using magnets, are a good alternative to heavy-lined

curtains. Cost is about £145 per sq m. 9. Draw your curtains at dusk to help keep the heat generated inside your rooms.

10. Unused fireplaces are one of the biggest causes of lost heat. If you're not using your chimney but don't want to board it up try a chimney balloon – they're easy to inflate and last for years.

Under the Government's Energy Company Obligation (ECO) programme participating energy companies will help pay for all or part of the cost of installing different home insulation measures and even a new boiler.

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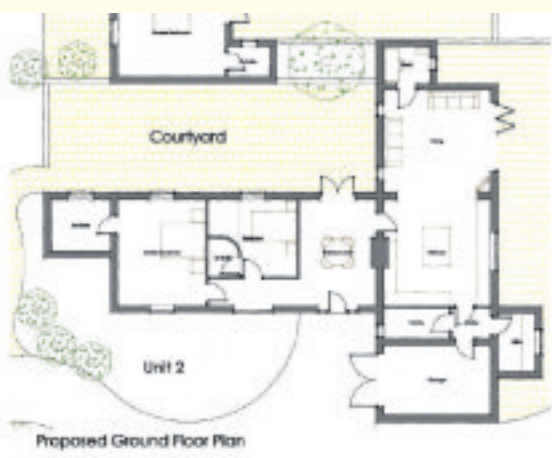
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<b>WORDSLEY</b>  <b>CAMELLIA GARDENS</b> <b>£535 pcm*</b> Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	<b>KINGSWINFORD</b>  <b>STANDHILLS ROAD</b> <b>£595 pcm*</b> Semi Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	<b>KINGSWINFORD</b>  <b>THE PORTWAY</b> <b>£670 pcm*</b> Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Garage	<b>BRIERLEY HILL</b>  <b>HULLAND PLACE</b> <b>£550 pcm*</b> Semi Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Parking for 2-3 Cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, D/Glazed Sealed Units
<b>UPPER GORNAL</b>  <b>ROCK STREET</b> <b>£575 pcm*</b> Mid Terrace House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	<b>KINGSWINFORD</b>  <b>LABURNUM ROAD</b> <b>£435 pcm*</b> Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating	<b>GORNAL</b>  <b>OX STREET</b> <b>£585 pcm*</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	<b>RUSSELLS HALL</b>  <b>ASHENHURST ROAD</b> <b>£520 pcm*</b> Semi Detached on corner plot, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Garage, Good Sized Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished
<b>OLDBURY</b>  <b>ASTLE DRIVE</b> <b>£525 pcm*</b> Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite Shower Room, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Fully Furnished	<b>STOURBRIDGE</b>  <b>WILDACRES</b> <b>£660 pcm*</b> Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	<b>DUDLEY</b>  <b>BOURNE STREET</b> <b>£375 pcm*</b> Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Large Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Allocated Parking	<b>BRIERLEY HILL</b>  <b>BISELL WAY</b> <b>£395 pcm*</b> First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking
<b>KINGSWINFORD</b>  <b>WATERFORD ROAD</b> <b>£795 pcm*</b> Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom with separate shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage/Driveway, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Gardens Front & Rear	<b>COLLEY GATE</b>  <b>WINDMILL HILL</b> <b>£395 pcm*</b> First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	<b>REDSTONE WAY</b>  <b>LOWER GORNAL</b> <b>£595 pcm*</b> Mid Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished	<b>COSELEY</b>  <b>SALCOMBE GROVE</b> <b>£395 pcm*</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens
<b>CRADLEY HEATH</b>  <b>TRINITY STREET</b> <b>£550 pcm*</b> Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen/Diner, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Cellar, Rear Garden	<b>WOMBOURNE</b>  <b>COMMON ROAD</b> <b>£595 pcm*</b> First Floor Flat, Entrance, Large Lounge, Good Sized Kitchen/Diner, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Parking at Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	<b>SEDGLEY</b>  <b>LONG MEADOW DRIVE</b> <b>£695 pcm*</b> Link Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage	<b>KINGSWINFORD</b>  <b>CAMBERLEY ROAD</b> <b>£675 pcm*</b> Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished
<b>SEDGLEY</b>  <b>CROSS LANE</b> <b>£625 pcm*</b> Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, W.C, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	<b>PENSNETT</b>  <b>CORBYNS HALL ROAD</b> <b>£540 pcm*</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens	<b>QUARRY BANK</b>  <b>NEW STREET</b> <b>£495 pcm*</b> Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens	<b>KINGSWINFORD</b>  <b>QUEEN STREET</b> <b>£475 pcm*</b> Large First Floor Flat. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Walk in Shower, Double Glazing, Part Furnished, Maintained Gardens. No DSS.

(Administration/application fees will apply)



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## LOWER GORNAL



Enviably situated on a fine corner plot with tremendous distance views and within walking distance of shops/post office/bus routes/country park. A superb significantly enhanced gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached bungalow. Accommodation includes entrance porch, central reception hall, THREE BEDROOMS, upgraded bathroom with white traditional style suite, 18'9" lounge double doors through to a large double glazed CONSERVATORY, breakfast kitchen, side lobby, garage, block paved driveway, delightful expertly tended grounds to front side and rear. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £245,000

## The Straits



## Kingswinford



### Brinley Way

Enjoying a quite exceptional setting upon the countryside fringe of the extremely sought after and respected 'Valleyfields' development, this IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM MODERN DETACHED BUNGALOW combines an OUTSTANDING POSITION with GENEROUS accommodation, which although requires some cosmetic updating, provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL and is well planned to offer: entrance porch, central reception hall, large lounge, breakfast kitchen with appliances, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With a small lawned fore garden, BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and an ATTRACTIVE 'SUNNY' REAR GARDEN, which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£239,950

## Wordsley



### Kenilworth Close

Enjoying an exceptional cul de sac setting, with an OPEN FRONT OUTLOOK onto a central green and SPECTACULAR DISTANT VIEWS towards Clent Hills, this EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED DORMER PROPERTY offers IMMACULATELY PRESENTED, SPACIOUS and VERY VERSATILE accommodation, comprising: reception hall, spacious lounge, separate dining room / bedroom 4, fitted kitchen with appliances, GROUND FLOOR BEDROOM ONE, refitted ground floor bathroom, TWO FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS - attractive shower room and useful store room; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With BROAD TARMAC DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and an ATTRACTIVE LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£174,950

## DUDLEY



### Harvard Close

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom detached family is situated in a cul-de-sac location and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance porch, hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, guest w.c. Three bedrooms (with en suite to master), bathroom with white suite. Garage, driveway and rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950

## Kingswinford



### Bromley Lane

Forming part of this established address, conveniently located for local shops / schooling, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is enhanced by a CONSERVATORY EXTENSION plus a DOUBLE GARAGE to the rear and offers SPACIOUS accommodation which REQUIRES UPDATING, yet provides EXCELLENT POTENTIAL and comprising: Entrance Hall, spacious Lounge-with-Dining Area, CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond the lawned fore garden and enjoying an ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN with rear access to the DOUBLE GARAGE. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£144,950

## QUARRY BANK



### Dunns Bank

Presenting a truly rare opportunity, this traditional style, bay fronted, double glazed, three bedroom detached family home now requires comprehensive modernisation / improvement, yet offers excellent potential. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance porch, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, timber garage, and lawned gardens. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£139,950

## Pensnett



Enjoying ATTRACTIVE REAR VIEWS onto fields from this very popular and established address, this EXTENDED AND ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOME is enhanced by a PLEASANT GARDEN ROOM and offers GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED and WELL APPOINTED accommodation, comprising: reception hall, well proportioned lounge, refitted dining kitchen, GARDEN ROOM EXTENSION, ground floor W.C., TWO GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, spacious re-appointed 'classic white' bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With a LONG TARMAC DRIVEWAY and an ATTRACTIVE LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£134,950

## Tansey Green Road



## Wordsley



### Crownokes Drive

Superbly located upon the very popular and stylish 'Edge' development, this LUXURY GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT offers EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED/APPOINTED accommodation including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: Communal Lobby with secure CCTV/intercom, Reception Hall, fantastic large Lounge with Dining Area and open plan to LUXURY KITCHEN with built-in appliances, TWO GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS (Master with luxury EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM) and beautifully appointed Bathroom. Located within beautifully maintained gardens/grounds, with ALLOCATED CAR PARKING and SHARED VISITOR PARKING SPACES. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£114,950

## DUDLEY / HOLLY HALL



### Stourbridge Road

This Victorian style, uPVC Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM mid Terrace may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Wet Room, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Bathroom and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£84,950

## PENSNETT



### Church Street

This modern style, part uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, End Town House is tucked away in a cul-de-sac part of Church Street, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The property may represent an ideal FIRST TIME BUY, and briefly comprises: Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, re-fitted Bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating TBA. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£77,000

## Kingswinford



**DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE/NO UPWARD CHAIN**

A HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME within a desirable setting, set well back beyond a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE providing an ELEGANT and VERSATILE arrangement of HIGH SPECIFICATION accommodation, comprising: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, large 'L' shape Lounge, Second Sitting Room, formal Dining Room, Sun Lounge, Study, Cloaks Cupboard, LUXURY REFITTED KITCHEN with appliances, separate Laundry Room, ground floor Double Bedroom, ground floor House Bathroom, TWO FIRST FLOOR DOUBLE BEDROOMS with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM, DRESSING ROOM and separate WC. This unique property is enhanced further by the BEAUTIFULLY ESTABLISHED and SUNNY REAR GARDENS. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC Rating: E KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£299,500

## Bromley Lane



## Kingswinford



**LAST REMAINING PLOT**

### Penzer Street

PLOT 3 'The Palmer' Westward Place - A BRAND NEW & EXCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT by RESPECTED HORGAN HOMES & DEVELOPMENT LTD. Well located within a highly sought after address, within walking distance of excellent schooling and the village centre, this VERY IMPRESSIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys the corner position and combines HIGH SPECIFICATION accommodation which a GENEROUS layout, all with energy efficient features including: Reception Hall with Guests Cloakroom/WC off, large Lounge, separate Dining Room, luxury fitted Kitchen with appliances, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS, the Master having EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM, and with Luxury House Bathroom. GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS. LABC Warranty, BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE, front garden and a level enclosed rear garden. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£285,000

## DUDLEY



## Priory Close



A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, and comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & part uPVC double glazed detached family residence with many fine period features set in favoured cul-de-sac, and with tremendous potential. Accommodation includes: porch, imposing reception hall, understairs store, fitted cloakroom, dining room, 17'6" lounge (with patio doors), breakfast kitchen with a large walk-in pantry, vestibule and utility room beyond. To the first floor a spacious landing, bathroom, separate w.c., three double bedrooms, and a further 25'8" fourth bedroom/hobbies room/playroom. Lengthy garage, delightful sheltered garden backing on to school grounds. EPC Rating: F. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888.

Offers in the region of £249,950

## LOWER GORNAL



### Deepdale Lane

An imaginatively extended, highly individual, and comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow with PANORAMIC DISTANT views from the rear set in favoured district. The property has been 'transformed' by present vendors over the years, and provides reception hall, 'snug'/sitting room, magnificent 21'3" x 16' through lounge with patio doors out to a BALCONY, refitted kitchen, dining room (former bedroom). Two bedrooms, re-appointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite. There are steps down to a useful BASEMENT providing utility room, separate toilet & extensive storage. Large double garage, delightful gardens abutting on to school grounds. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £227,500

## WOODSETTON



NO UPWARD CHAIN. A distinctive significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached family home, enviably situated upon popular development with open aspect. A personal inspection is considered imperative for full appreciation of this distinctive property which comprises Entrance Hall, Reception hall, Fitted Cloakroom, further store, 22 ft through living/dining room with bay and patio doors through to a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, extended/refitted 16ft 9" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'contemporary style' units and various integrated appliances patio doors to outside. Principle 19ft 4" through bedroom possibilities of sub division to create en suite shower room?, 3 further bedrooms, bathroom, garage delightful landscape rear garden, blocked paved drive. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £219,950

## Tamar Drive





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**SEDGLEY**



**Sunningdale Road, Northway**

Occupying a corner plot, this modern style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated EXTENDED three/four bedroom link detached family home provides versatile living space and is situated in a well regarded location. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance porch, hall, through living/dining room, sitting room/potential bedroom four addition, Kitchen, utility, guest WC, three good bedrooms, bathroom, larger than average garden, driveway and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £210,000**

**WOLVERHAMPTON**



**Penn Road**

**NEW PRICE**

An EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS tremendously EXTENDED freehold gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached of character offering superb FAMILY SIZED accommodation. Glazed entrance porch, imposing reception hall, fitted cloak room, sitting room, extended 21ft 6" lounge with patio doors extended/refitted 17ft 5" breakfast kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite and staircase up to large dormer bedroom four with many skylights. Off road parking, side store/workroom delightful sheltered rear garden EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Price: £199,950**

**SEDGLEY**



**Alderbrook Close, Northway**

Enviably situated upon FINE CORNER PLOT (with potential), a superb, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached comprising entrance porch, L-shape through lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'English Cream' finish units, outer porch & a further store. Three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite, lengthy 17'5" garage & further parking for larger vehicles/caravan, etc. sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £195,000**

**DUDLEY**



**Richborough Drive**

A quite exceptional highly individual and tremendously enhanced FREEHOLD gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached enviably situated head of convenient cul-de-sac with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. Enhanced accommodation provides superb refitted kitchen with various integrated appliances and granite work surfaces, transverse lounge and CONSERVATORY beyond, former garage subdivided to create utility room and occasional fourth bedroom. To the first floor is a principle bedroom with STEAM ROOM en suite and two further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, beautifully landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £189,950**

**DUDLEY**



**Harvard Close**

An EXCEPTIONAL, tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached enviably situated in short/quiet cul de sac just off Richborough Drive. Stylish/enlarged accommodation includes entrance vestibule, traditional 19'9" reception hall, fitted cloakroom, refitted/enlarged kitchen with an extensive range of 'cherrywood' effect units & various integrated appliances, transverse living/dining room & large uPVC double glazed 19'9" CONSERVATORY. Principal bedroom with reappointed shower room en suite (with luxury shower cubicle), two further bedrooms (9'9" ceiling height), bathroom with white suite, garage, neat landscaped garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £187,450**

**SEDGLEY**



**Queens Road**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A Freehold, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed detached most conveniently situated in a well regarded district within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring, and all associated amenities. Accommodation includes; reception hall, cloak, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, Garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £179,950**

**WOLVERHAMPTON**



**NEW PRICE**

**Wolverhampton Road East**

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS. Freehold, gas centrally heated, mostly uPVC double glazed DETACHED HOUSE designed to take maximum advantage of individual sloping site. Accommodation includes 19ft reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, lounge, third bedroom with steps down to the lower ground floor having a hallway, two generous double bedrooms, bathroom & store, secluded rear garden with gated service driveway at rear giving access to extensive slabbed parking & TWO SINGLE BRICK GARAGES. Internal inspection vital to appreciate potential. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**WAS £179,950, NOW £174,950**

**WOLVERHAMPTON**



**Sherrans Dell (Off Dovedale Rd),**

A tremendously improved & enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed detached in short cul de sac within walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation provides entrance hallway, fitted cloakroom, L-shaped lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units with chrome detailing & various integrated appliances. Three bedrooms (shower room en suite to principal bedroom), reappointed bathroom with white suite, carport, garage, garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £169,950**

**KINGSWINFORD**



**Coniston Drive**

Enjoying a delightful cul de sac position upon the prestigious Valleyfields development, this ATTRACTIVELY RE-APPOINTED, MODERN, SEMI-DETACHED SINGALOW offers VERY WELL PROPORTIONED accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: reception hall, splendid large lounge with period style open fire, beautifully refitted kitchen with built-in appliances, inner hall, TWO BEDROOMS, attractively re-appointed bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With lawned fore garden, DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a pleasant patio / lawned rear garden. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

**£164,950**

**SEDGLEY**



**Turfs Street**

A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) uPVC double glazed detached excellently situated within walking distance of Sedgley's Bullring. Accommodation comprises porch, hall, fitted cloakroom, upgraded kitchen, spacious lounge/dining room, large uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, 2 bedrooms (originally 3bedrooms), bathroom with white suite. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £162,750**

**SWINDON**



**VILLAGE LOCATION**

**Winston Road**

A LARGE TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME superbly located within the Swindon Village, surrounded by beautiful countryside, providing VERY WELL PROPORTIONED accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, 20' - full depth Lounge, family Dining Kitchen, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. The property is set beyond the attractive 'chipped' forecourt and, to the rear, enjoying LARGE and ATTRACTIVELY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

**£149,950**

**LOWER GORNAL**



**Ash Grove**

Conveniently situated for the village (just off Central Drive), an exceptionally stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached constructed circa 2008 having been tremendously improved by present vendor & presented in exemplary order throughout. Accommodation provides reception hall, fitted half tiled cloakroom (with white suite), further store, well equipped kitchen with a fine range of 'beech' effect units & various integrated appliances, living/dining room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, extensive parking to front & landscaped secluded rear garden designed to ensure 'low maintenance'. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £149,950**

**COSELEY**



**Mount Pleasant Street**

A particularly SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & double glazed Edwardian semi detached of character that has been lovingly restored/renovated by present vendors over the years. Elegant accommodation includes entrance vestibule, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling heights), inner hallway, store & fitted cloakroom, lounge with living flame fireplace, dining room, upgraded breakfast kitchen, practical cellar (used as workshop). Three bedrooms, enlarged bathroom. Traditional loft with potential. Delightful secluded level rear garden with gated PARKING/ GARAGE SPACE. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £147,950**

**LOWER GORNAL**



**The Straits**

OFFERS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL & occupying a fine corner plot in popular/ convenient neighbourhood, a gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens & BRICK GARAGE to side. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £139,950**

**LOWER GORNAL**



**Summit Place**

This traditional, majority double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached is situated in an established location convenient for local amenities. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway & rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £125,000**

**UPPER GORNAL**



**Redwood Avenue**

A conscientiously maintained & enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with further potential in well regarded/convenient district. Accommodation includes; entrance porch, reception hall, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, pantry, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Large (19's x 9'0") garage. Sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £123,950**

**PENSNETT**



**NEW PRICE**

**Teviot Gardens**

Enjoying a position just off the thoroughfare of Teviot Gardens, THIS REALLY VERY WELL ARRANGED, MODERN, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME should appeal to first time buyers and young families, with a layout having GAS CENTRAL HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: hall, guests cloakroom, pleasant sitting room, oak styled kitchen, dining room area, three first floor bedrooms, and delightful bathroom with corner suite. Fore garden, enclosed rear garden and with rear access to garage. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

**£12,950**

**COSELEY**



**Berrington Drive**

A Freehold, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED semi detached in cul-de-sac just off Ivyhouse Lane conveniently situated for so many amenities, bus/rail transport routes etc. The property comprises; canopy porch (bin store off), entrance hallway, fitted cloakroom, and a further store, kitchen, living/dining room, two double bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy drive (garage space subject to regulations), and secluded rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £110,000**

**BROCKMOOR**



**Fox Foot Drive**

This modern style, Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM Semi-Detached Home is situated in a popular residential location, and may particularly appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, the accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

**£109,950**

**COSELEY**



**Cox Road**

A comparatively spacious, freehold, significantly modernised & improved, RECENTLY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached in relatively quiet 'backwater'. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units & a large cupboard off. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite & a shower, separate toilet, further stores, GARAGE (rear vehicular access), neat gardens. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £104,950**

**NETHERTON**



**NOW AVAILABLE**

**Chichester Avenue**

This vast majority uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, Two Bedroom mid Townhouse is immaculately presented throughout, and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, stylish Lounge, Kitchen, Two Good Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

**£99,950**

**WOODSETTON**



**Brook Street**

This Victorian style, uPVC double glazed (majority of units), three bedroom mid terrace property would now ideally benefit from sympathetic modernisation/improvement, yet offers enormous potential, and is available with no upward chain. The surprisingly spacious accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three first floor bedrooms, useful attic and rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £99,950**

**UPPER GORNAL**



**Priors Mill**

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, two bedroomed mid townhouse is available with no upward chain, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, lawned Gardens and secure parking to rear. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £94,950**

**WOODSETTON**



**Roper Walk**

A uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), first floor flat enviably situated adjacent to and over/looking adopted open space with DISTANT VIEWS. Accommodation comprises reception hall, store, 17'3" living/dining room, breakfast kitchen, double bedroom with wardrobes, bathroom, shared grounds and allocated parking. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

**Offers in the region of £76,950**





Stourbridge Sales &amp; Lettings : 01384 444 645

Halesowen Sales &amp; Lettings : 0121 585 5081

Netherton and Dudley Sales &amp; Lettings : 01384 456 022

## 2 Bed Warwick Road, NETHERTON



NEW

EPC: D

This semi-detached home situated on this residential estate with excellent access to all local amenities makes excellent use of the front and benefits from gas central heating and double glazed accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, downstairs w.c., rear hallway, two double bedrooms and family bathroom. The property also benefits from off road parking and a rear garden. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, call now to view!

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£82,000**

## 2 Bed York Road, NETHERTON



NEW

EPC: TBC

This well presented semi-detached home situated on this substantial corner plot benefits from accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, lounge, extended kitchen, downstairs w.c., and two good sized bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor. It also benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed with off road parking to the front and low maintenance rear garden. Internal viewing is strongly recommended to fully appreciate.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£98,500**

## 2 Bed Windmill End, NETHERTON



SOLD STC

SOLD ON FIRST VIEWING EPC: C

This immaculately presented and recently refurbished mid terraced home benefits from gas central heating and double glazed accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, refitted kitchen, conservatory, two good sized bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor. The property also benefits from off road parking and rear garden which is not overlooked. Viewing is a must!

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£99,950**

## 2 Bed Hereford Road, NETHERTON



NEW

EPC: E

This immaculately presented semi-detached home situated on this good sized corner plot providing ample off road parking also benefits from gas central heating (where stated) and rear garden. The property has accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, downstairs w.c. and two double bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor. The property also benefits from off road parking and an early viewing is recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£92,500**

## 2 Bed Quayside Walk, NETHERTON



NEW

EPC: C

This immaculately presented top floor apartment situated in this popular development with commanding views over the canal has accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms with ensuite shower to master bedroom and family bathroom. The property also benefits from electric heating throughout and double glazing, allocated parking and communal gardens. Call now to avoid missing out.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£110,000**

## 3 Bed Oakham Road, TIVIDALE



NEW

EPC: E

This immaculately presented, much improved and extended three bedroom detached home benefits from accommodation to comprise of: Entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, excellent sized dining room, kitchen and conservatory, three bedrooms and family bathroom and the property also benefits from an integral garage, ample off road parking, rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. Internal viewing is recommended to appreciate the accommodation on offer.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£189,950**

## 3 Bed Newick Street, NETHERTON



SOLD STC

SOLD ON FIRST VIEWING EPC: TBC

This recently refurbished and much improved mid terraced home is situated in this quiet residential location and benefits from accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and downstairs bathroom. To the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms and the property also benefits from a cellar, gas central heating, double glazing and has a low maintenance rear garden. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£97,500**

## 2 Bed Weston Avenue, TIVIDALE



NEW

EPC: F

This well presented, two bedroom semi-detached home situated in this popular residential location and benefits from double glazed accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, lounge being open plan through to dining room, extended kitchen, and to the first floor there are two bedrooms and a family bathroom. Viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£107,500**

## 2 Bed Golden Hillock Road, NETHERTON



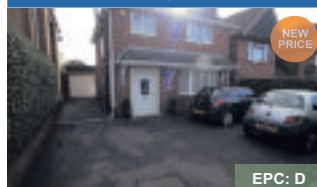
NEW PRICE

EPC: C

We are pleased to offer for sale this well presented semi-detached home benefitting from gas central heating (where stated), double glazing (where stated) and having accommodation to comprise of entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, downstairs w.c. and to the first floor are two good sized bedrooms and a modern bathroom. The property also benefits from front and rear gardens. Viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£90,000**

## 3 Bed Buffery Road, DUDLEY



NEW PRICE

EPC: D

This immaculately presented and good sized traditional detached property benefits from accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, through lounge/diner and refitted kitchen. To the first floor are three good sized bedrooms and a modern family bathroom and the property is also gas centrally heated and double glazed, has off road parking to the fore with access to the garage and landscaped rear garden. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£164,950**

## 3 Bed St Marks Road, DUDLEY



NEW PRICE

EPC: C

This well presented and good sized traditional semi-detached home has spacious accommodation comprising of: Entrance porch, excellent reception hallway, two reception rooms, modern and refitted kitchen, sun room with downstairs w.c., ample storage and integral garage, three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. It also benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed where stated and has off road parking with front and rear gardens. Viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£153,000**

## 4 Bed Racemeadow Crescent, DUDLEY WOOD



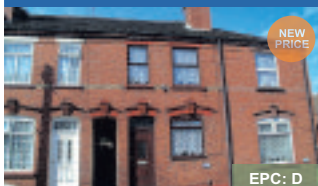
NEW PRICE

EPC: C

Situated within popular cul de sac we are pleased to offer this four bedroom detached family home presented to a high standard throughout. Being both double glazed and centrally heated the residence includes hall, lounge with dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, separate utility and downstairs w.c., master bedroom with an en suite shower room, three further bedrooms, family bathroom, garage and low maintenance gardens.

Netherton Office Offers Over  
**£200,000**

## 2 Bed Park Road, NETHERTON



NEW PRICE

EPC: D

This deceptively spacious intermediate terraced property has the benefit of being UPVC double glazed and having a condensing central heating boiler. It comprises: Front reception room, inner lobby, rear reception room, kitchen, downstairs shower room, conservatory, two bedrooms, upstairs w.c. and low maintenance paved rear yard. Offering an excellent opportunity to the first time purchaser or investor clients alike, viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£70,000**

## 3 Bed Cecil Drive, TIVIDALE



OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 11.00 AM-1.00 PM EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£139,950**

## 3 Bed Pimlico Court, DUDLEY



EPC: D

Offering an excellent opportunity to first time buyers or investors, this well presented terraced home benefits from central heating (where specified) and double glazing and accommodation comprising: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. This is an ideal location for popular and reputable primary and secondary schools. Early viewing of this realistically priced home is strongly recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Over  
**£97,000**

## 3 Bed Lyttleton Close, NETHERTON



EPC: D

This immaculately presented semi-detached home situated in this popular and sought after area of Netherton benefits from accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, good sized lounge/diner, modern kitchen with utility room off, three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. Having gas central heating, double glazing and ample off road parking, garage and rear garden, an early viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£146,500**

## 3 Bed Kingsley Street, NETHERTON

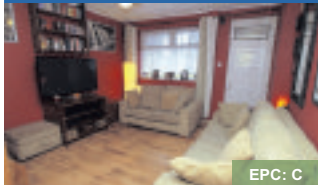


EPC: D

This three storey traditional terraced home has accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and a family shower room to the first floor with stairs rising to the loft conversion providing a third bedroom. The property also benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed and has a courtyard style rear garden. Viewing is recommended to appreciate the accommodation on offer.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£84,950**

## 2 Bed Queens Cross, DUDLEY



EPC: C

This well presented two bedroom traditional terraced home offers deceptively spacious accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen diner, two good sized bedrooms and a modern bathroom. The property also benefits from a floored attic room and two cellar rooms. The property also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is a must to fully appreciate.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£89,950**

## 3/4 Bed Quarry Road, DUDLEY WOOD



This immaculately presented and much improved detached family home has good sized accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, three reception rooms, study and potential bedroom four, downstairs w.c., modern kitchen with utility area off, three good sized bedrooms and a tastefully refitted bathroom. Having 'in' out gated driveway with ample off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing, two separate garages and excellent sized landscaped rear garden. This property really must be viewed to be appreciated.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£319,950**

## 2 Bed Pedmore Road, DUDLEY

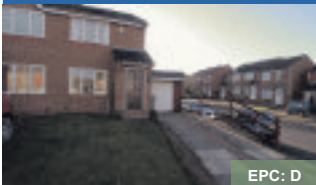


EPC: D

This immaculately presented and good sized end of terrace home situated in this perfect location for access to Merry Hill Shopping Centre and has accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen diner, two good sized bedrooms and a modern refitted family bathroom. It also benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed, has ample off road parking for up to four vehicles and has good sized rear garden ideal for summer BBQs. Viewing is a must!

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£97,500**

## 2 Bed Denbigh Close, DUDLEY



EPC: D

This well presented semi-detached home is situated in this popular residential location has gas central heating, double glazing and has accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. It also benefits from off road parking, car port and front and rear gardens. An early viewing is highly recommended to avoid missing out!

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£118,500**

## 3 Bed Cradley Road, NETHERTON

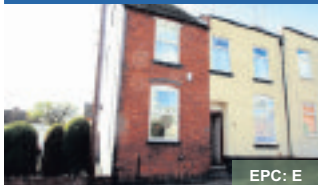


EPC: TBC

This immaculately presented mid terraced home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and has accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, through lounge/diner, extended kitchen, and three bedrooms and a family bathroom to the first floor. Benefiting from off road parking and good sized rear garden, an early viewing is highly recommended to avoid missing out!

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£117,950**

## 3 Bed Belper Row, NETHERTON



EPC: E

Offering an excellent opportunity to the first time purchaser, this end terrace property has really well presented accommodation comprising: Lounge, inner hall, fitted kitchen, conservatory, two first floor bedrooms, bathroom and second floor main bedroom. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating where specified, an early viewing is highly recommended to avoid missing out! This property is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£99,950**

## 3 Bed Abingdon Road, NETHERTON



EPC: D

This well presented detached home situated on this good sized corner plot has good sized accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, through lounge/diner and modern kitchen, three bedrooms and a family bathroom and outside the property has ample off road parking, garage and potential additional parking and car port area. Viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£169,950**

## 3 Bed Russells Hall Road, DUDLEY



EPC: C

This good sized semi-detached home situated on the popular Russells Hall estate does require some cosmetic improvements but has accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, downstairs w.c., open plan kitchen and living area, three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. It benefits from being gas centrally heated, double glazed, has front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, an early viewing is recommended.

Netherton Office Offers Around  
**£124,950**



**SEDGLEY**



**Gospel End Road**

- \* NO UPWARD CHAIN
- \* An excellent size DETACHED home
- \* Bought after Gospel End address
- \* Open plan and recently fitted kitchen
- \* Utility room, play room/billiard room
- \* FOUR bedrooms, two en-suites
- \* Driveway parking for several cars
- \* Part garage and private rear garden
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £250,996

**COSELEY**



**Nicholls Close**

- \* SOLD IN THREE DAYS
- \* A FOUR bedroom detached
- \* Generous corner plot in cul-de-sac
- \* Study, Lounge & Dining Room
- \* Kitchen & Utility room
- \* En-suite and main family bathroom
- \* DOUBLE garage
- \* AN IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £382,990

**GORNAL WOOD**



**Hinley Road**

- \* A Character detached cottage
- \* Walking distance to Gornal Village
- \* Open plan Living Room
- \* Extended upstairs over garage
- \* FOUR bedrooms
- \* Further scope for improvement
- \* Double garage
- \* EPC Rating - F

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £235,888

**SWINDON**



**Swinfage Way**

- \* Four bed detached, village location
- \* Delightful canal side setting
- \* Lounge & Dining room
- \* Breakfast kitchen
- \* Upvc double glazed windows
- \* Gas central heating
- \* Garage, driveway parking
- \* PART EX CONSIDERED
- \* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £224,950

**COSELEY**



**Summerhill Road**

- \* A DETACHED bungalow
- \* Enhanced and upgraded throughout
- \* Breakfast Kitchen & Large Conservatory
- \* Lounge & Dining Room
- \* One bedroom (can be converted back into a two bedroom)
- \* Delightful & landscaped gardens
- \* Secure parking through electronic gate
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £219,959

**SEDGLEY**



**Cityshore Road**

- \* A most impressive detached residence.
- \* In walking distance to Sedgley Village
- \* Spacious accommodation
- \* Two reception rooms
- \* Breakfast kitchen
- \* Four double bedrooms
- \* No Upward Chain
- \* Viewing essential
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £218,996

**COSELEY**



**Seagull Bay Drive**

- \* A SPACIOUS 3 bedroom detached
- \* Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- \* Lounge, dining room, conservatory
- \* Kitchen with integrated appliances
- \* THREE bedrooms & en-suite
- \* Central heating & double glazing
- \* Block paved driveway
- \* Landscaped low maintenance
- \* EPC rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £208,996

**COSELEY**



**Bridleys Lane**

- \* An excellent size detached family home
- \* Full of character and charm
- \* Modern kitchen & Dining Room
- \* Conservatory
- \* Three bedrooms and bathroom
- \* Good size rear garden
- \* Upvc double glazed windows
- \* Garage
- \* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £208,990

**COSELEY**



**Brigdenwater Drive**

- \* A FOUR bedroom detached
- \* Extended & enhanced
- \* Dining & breakfast kitchen
- \* Contemporary bathroom
- \* Utility room & guest w.c.
- \* Garage & off road parking
- \* NO UPWARD CHAIN
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £248,996

**SEDGLEY**



**Blaise Street**

- \* A fine detached built 1912
- \* Stands in the heart of Sedgley Village
- \* Re-furnished and re-designed
- \* Offering a lot of potential
- \* OPEN PLAN STYLE
- \* Three double bedrooms and bathroom
- \* Attic room (possible fourth bedroom)
- \* Pretty rear garden & Driveway Parking
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £179,990

**COSELEY**



**Cliffe Street**

- \* A traditional DETACHED home
- \* Open plan lounge/dining room
- \* Modern Kitchen
- \* Three good size bedrooms
- \* An excellent size bathroom
- \* Rear gardens & garage
- \* Off road parking for 2/3 cars
- \* An ideal family home
- \* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £228,990

**DUDLEY**



**Arlingham Drive**

- \* A Modern TOWN HOUSE
- \* Set over three storeys
- \* Contemporary & spacious
- \* Lounge & dining kitchen
- \* FOUR double bedrooms
- \* Two En-suites & family bathroom
- \* Allocated parking for 2/3 cars
- \* Rear garden set over 2 tiers
- \* EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £248,996

**LOWER GORNAL**



**Winnish Close**

- \* A good size DETACHED property
- \* In an enviable cul-de-sac location
- \* An open plan lounge and dining kitchen
- \* THREE bedrooms, en-suite & shower room
- \* Family bathroom
- \* UPVC double glazed windows
- \* Driveway with off road parking
- \* A good size rear garden and garage
- \* An ideal family home
- \* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £198,996

**CRADLEY HEATH**



**Trejon Road**

- \* A traditional bay fronted semi-detached
- \* Lounge & dining kitchen
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Excellent size rear garden
- \* Upvc double glazed windows
- \* Gas central heating
- \* Off road parking
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £148,990

**SEDGLEY**



**Cifton Street**

- \* A PERIOD three storey semi-detached
- \* Fully modernised and enhanced
- \* Lounge and conservatory
- \* Dining kitchen
- \* Three double bedrooms
- \* Double glazed 'bi-fold' windows
- \* A large & well maintained rear garden
- \* Views over Cosley allotments
- \* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £149,959

**COSELEY**



**Whitewares Road**

- \* Exceptional FOUR bed semi
- \* Impressive, spacious accommodation
- \* Through lounge/dining room
- \* Modern kitchen
- \* Seafront fitted bathroom
- \* Rear garden
- \* Garage & Driveway
- \* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £148,990

**SEDGLEY**



**Crown Close**

- \* A beautifully presented and property
- \* Situated in walking distance to Sedgley
- \* Garage & off road parking
- \* An excellent size lounge
- \* Recently fitted modern kitchen
- \* Three bedrooms and bathroom
- \* Rear garden
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £142,999

**COSELEY**



**Roseland Avenue**

- \* A traditional style semi-detached
- \* On the popular Mansfield Estate
- \* Lounge & Dining Room
- \* Modern breakfast kitchen
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Garage and drive
- \* Rear garden
- \* NO UPWARD CHAIN
- \* EPC Rating - D

PRICE £139,996

**COSELEY**




**Cox Road**

- \* A 'Charm' style semi-detached property
- \* Upgraded & enhanced accommodation
- \* EXTENDED dining kitchen
- \* Garage conversion
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Bathroom & Shower Room
- \* Gas central heating
- \* Rear garden & Driveway
- \* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £208,996

**UPPER GORNAL**



**Stoneware Place**

- \* A THREE bedroom semi-detached
- \* Quiet cul-de-sac location
- \* Lounge & Dining Room
- \* Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- \* Rear garden with feature decking
- \* Garage & Driveway
- \* An ideal FIRST TIME BUY
- \* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £232,990

**COSELEY**



**Gidmore Road**

- \* BRAND NEW development
- \* 5 PLOTS available
- \* 2 bed town house and semi-detached
- \* Contemporary accommodation
- \* Luxury kitchen and bathroom
- \* Allocated parking & Rear gardens
- \* Flexible mortgages available
- \* EPC rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £228,996

**COSELEY**



**Church Road**

- \* A Traditional terrace property
- \* Deceptively spacious
- \* An open plan modern dining kitchen
- \* Lounge & Sitting Room
- \* Two good size bedrooms
- \* Loft Room (being used as a bedroom)
- \* Good size rear garden
- \* Driveway with parking for 2 cars
- \* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,990

**DUDLEY**



**Wheatstone Drive**

- \* A beautifully presented mid terrace
- \* Lounge & dining kitchen
- \* Two double bedrooms
- \* Modern bathroom
- \* Off road parking for two vehicles
- \* Private rear garden
- \* An ideal first time buy
- \* EPC Rating - C

PRICE £19,990

**COSELEY**



**Diet Croft**

- \* A Modern semi detached property
- \* Quiet cul-de-sac location
- \* Large corner plot
- \* Lounge & Dining kitchen
- \* Two bedrooms
- \* Upvc double glazed
- \* Good size rear garden
- \* Off road parking for up to 3 cars
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,996

**GORNAL WOOD**



**Hinley Road**

A substantial plot of land FOR SALE with planning permission for a three bedroom residential dwelling. The land currently has an existing detached double garage and the land itself has been graded ready for development (Quarantines available). Approximately 473m<sup>2</sup> (square meters)

GUIDE PRICE £98,000

**LOWER GORNAL**



**Henric Street**

- \* Traditional semi-detached
- \* In need of FULL renovation
- \* MODERNISATION AND REPAIR
- \* Two bedrooms
- \* Two reception rooms
- \* Good size rear garden
- \* Gas central heating
- \* NO UPWARD CHAIN
- \* EPC - fbc

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £98,990

**SEDGLEY MEWS, TIPTON**



**Thunderbolt Way**

- \* A modern and stylish top floor apartment
- \* Light and airy lounge with dining area
- \* Kitchen with integrated appliances
- \* Useful pantry/closets
- \* Spacious bedroom with built in wardrobe
- \* Bathroom with white suite
- \* Secure entry system
- \* Allocated parking
- \* EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £87,808

**TIPTON**



**Thunderbolt Way**

- \* A Modern second floor apartment
- \* Constructed in 2006
- \* TWO bedrooms
- \* Open plan lounge/dining room
- \* Modern Kitchen & bathroom
- \* One allocated parking space
- \* Gas central heating
- \* An ideal first time buy
- \* EPC Rating - B

£81,958

**TIPTON**



**Thunderbolt Way**

- \* A Modern TOP floor apartment
- \* TWO bedrooms
- \* Open plan lounge and kitchen
- \* Contemporary shower room
- \* Two allocated parking space
- \* LOFT storage space
- \* PRICED TO SELL
- \* An ideal first time buy or buy-to-let
- \* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £85,800

**TIPTON**



**Thunderbolt Way**

- \* A modern and stylish apartment
- \* With secure entry system
- \* Allocated parking
- \* Open plan style living
- \* One double bedroom
- \* Shower room
- \* An ideal first time buy or investment
- \* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £82,958





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**LEASEHOLD COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT**

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GUIDE PRICE £20,000 - £25,000 PLUS VAT



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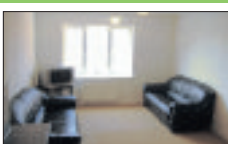
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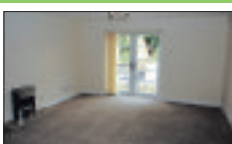


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# Renault's hot hatch

By John Griffiths

**Renault's history is awash with small cars with sporting aspirations: only those of a certain age will remember it beat the iconic Volkswagen GTi into hot hatch territory.**

That was the Renault 5 Gordini, whose crown is now worn by the 200bhp pocket rocket Clio Renaultsport, a car packed with Formula One technology. But that left an almost unbridgeable gap between itself and the standard Clio in terms of cost, running expenses and the feasibility of getting insurance for younger drivers.

Until now, that is. Enter the Renault-sport's little brother, the Clio GT-Line which borrows heavily on the head of the family's styling both inside and out, but with a smaller yet still potent engine.

Of course, it doesn't match the flagship's performance, but it's still lively on the 0-62mph sprint (9.9 seconds), it uses around 25 per cent less fuel, has a VED rating to make the taxman weep and an accessibly low insurance group of 14E.

All sound reasons for buying the GT-Line, but most convincing of all is the uprated chassis, sports tuned for superb roadholding and pin-sharp handling. And it's a whole lot of fun, too.

It's based on the new Clio which is itself no slouch, while also being sleek and contemporary with significantly more room than its predecessor.

The GT-Line naturally gets the appropriate badging, as well as larger, 17in alloys, aerodynamic rear lip spoiler and side sills, plus twin chromed tailpipes. The sporty theme continues inside with dark carbon

upholstery, chrome and black glass detailing, aluminium pedals and Renaultsport front seats.

At the heart of the beast and the secret of its success is a modest 1.2-litre engine: turbocharged to match the power and torque of conventional rivals but with the advantage of great economy.

The figures are impressive: 120bhp with a useful 190Nm of torque, 0-62mph in 9.9 seconds and yet – wait for it – the ability to average 54.3mpg. CO2 emissions are 120g/km, meaning no road tax in the first year and just £30 a year thereafter.

It's interesting to think that, with the 10p difference in petrol and diesel prices, you could be running a distinctly warm hatch for much the same as a very ordinary small family car.

## Quiet

The engine is sewing machine smooth and particularly quiet: I had to check the rev counter while waiting at lights to check whether the stop/start system was working. I also confess to winding down the window to enjoy the tailpipe tune on the open road, but of course regulations these days have put a cork in growing exhausts.

It's mated to Renault's twin-clutch electronic transmission, which changes sequentially between the six gears either automatically or manually via paddles behind the steering wheel.

As befits the GT-Line's aspirations, the system is very quick: no perceptible gap in drive to the front wheels on the way up, and no causing your passengers to do nodding dog impressions on the way down.

If you're really in the mood for fun, or you want an even quicker overtake, there's the RS Drive button which takes you from nor-



## Secret of its success is a modest 1.2 litre engine

mal to sport mode, considerably sharpening up engine and throttle response, gearbox mapping and steering feel. Few drivers could use a manual clutch so efficiently, and if you want to go down two or three gears to set up for a corner you just hang on to the paddle for a little longer. Simple.

The GT-Line's sports chassis is 30 per cent stiffer, with stiffer damping, than the standard car. It's a great compromise. It's nowhere near as harsh as some more focused pocket rockets on B-roads, yet in builds on the already impressive roadholding and handling of the standard Clio.

With a price tag of £17,395, the GT-Line isn't cheap but performance apart it's as well equipped as the top of the range

standard Clios. It has a seven-inch infotainment display which is at the heart of an upmarket 3D sound system, satnav and Blue Tooth.

The instrument panel, like the rest of the new Clio range, has conventional dials surrounding a large, easily visible digital speedo which allows you to keep your eyes on the road while staying safe and legal. An alarm and security system, cruise control, speed limiter, electric windows and door mirrors, tinted windows, air conditioning and split/fold rear seats are there along with the GT trim kit.

There is a full range of electronic driving aids, including ABS, emergency brake assist, traction and stability systems.

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# Lexus Stay safe in style

By Graham Breeze

**THE new Lexus IS300h is not just a luxury car, it's also one of the safest cars on the road, having been declared the best in its class for safety by Euro NCAP.**

The amazing hybrid saloon has achieved the highest ratings in the "large family" category in NCAP's 2013 safety performance testing programme, achieving the top overall five-star rating.

The IS 300h excelled in each area of testing, including adult occupant safety, child occupant safety, pedestrian protection and safety assist features.

The hybrid version of the Lexus IS is cheaper to run than diesel rivals, thanks to its low CO2 emissions with its 2.5-litre

full hybrid powertrain posting emissions of just 99g/km. The penalty you pay is an annoying drone when you apply the pedal because of flat performance at low revs.

The sub-100g/km CO2 figure is achieved by the IS 300h SE model, fitted with 16-inch wheels, which means no annual road tax charge.

Cleaner performance is delivered by the other hybrid versions in the line-up too, both delivering emissions below 110g/km and qualifying for a zero charge in the first year of ownership.

To make the system work Lexus has produced a 141bhp/105kW electric motor and a newly developed 2.5-litre four-cylinder Atkinson cycle petrol engine that produces a maximum 178bhp/133kW.

For the techies that means the engine benefits from a new D-4S fuel injection system, Dual VVT-i intelligent variable valve timing and a high-efficiency exhaust gas recirculation system.

The rear wheels are driven through the hybrid powertrain's E-CVT transmission. Total system output is 220bhp/164kW, enabling nought to 62mph acceleration in 8.3 seconds and a 125mph top speed.

And the driver can modify the car's performance by selecting from three different drive modes: EV all-electric running, with the petrol engine switched off; Eco, for optimum fuel efficiency; Normal, and Sport, for sharper throttle response and a sportier steering setting.

The new IS range includes an F Sport model, which comes with sports-tuned suspension and electric power steering, as well as dedicated exterior and interior design features that distinguish it from the other models in the range.



**The new Lexus IS range includes an F Sport model, which comes with sports-tuned suspension, electric power steering and dedicated design features**

The car lacks the strong mid-range torque of turbocharged four-cylinder petrol units and diesels, so you need plenty of weight on the accelerator.

An automatic gearbox is standard and you will have no problems with the accurate steering, even if some rivals might offer a bit more precision.

The hybrid runs virtually silently on electric-only power, which I always find a little unsettling, and there is very little wind noise to help give that feeling of luxury.

You won't be stopping off at many petrol stations because the IS300h SE will give you 65mpg on the combined cycle.

Seating and comfort is as near to perfect as it gets. If you can't find a comfortable position well quite frankly it's you're fault.

There's ample room for five with space to stretch out in both front and back. There's also ample boot space.

My one big complaint was the complexity of the car's infotainment set-up. It took a week behind the wheel to finally come to terms with exactly where everything was.

I would have expected to have to pay more for this car. Starting prices are at £26,495 with the range topping IS300h Premier coming in at £38,495. Those are competitive figures in this luxury sector.

Low emissions combined with exciting performance remain the challenge for the motor industry. Some companies go for one or the other. Lexus have managed to combine both and the IS300h is well worth a look when selecting from this sector.

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at Himley Bypass, B4176.  
Ring Colin: 07973 904585.  
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## INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE.

Sundays, 12 noon-2pm. £5 table.  
Brook St Community Centre, Tipton  
DY4 9DD. 07958 684716.

## fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything  
considered. New or Old  
01902 754011 or 07931 568716

## jumble sales / fetes

THE ORPHEUS  
SUPPORTERS CLUB  
Have organised a jumble  
and nearly new sale at  
Bilston Catholic Church Hall,  
Oxford Street, Bilston, on  
Friday, April 4, 2014.  
Doors open at 1pm.  
Loads of bric-a-brac, books,  
nearly new rail, refreshments.  
Bargains galore.  
Admission 20p.

## music shop

BABY GRAND PIANO, black,  
Evesham, London 1930's, 4ft 8ins,  
very good condition. £1,500.  
Kingswinford 01384 402023.EXPERT GUITAR TUITION. All  
styles taught, exam prep if required.  
Beginner to advanced. www.mrguitar  
tuition.com. Call 07973 258498LEAD GUITARIST AND  
BASS GUITARIST  
REQUIRED FOR THE  
GIGGING BAND HARDIDEMust have a passion for classic  
rock!  
Please send details of  
experience, equipment and  
transport to:  
leslieturner1000@gmail.com

## sports &amp; leisure

FISHING AND CAMPING  
equipment, cameras and camcorder.  
£300 the lot.  
Tel: 07846 154304.MOUNTFIELD LAWNMOWER.  
Self-propelled, 2 years old, excellent  
condition, price £250 new,  
£135 ono. 07768 138819.

## holidays

Cosalt Riviera Caravan  
35x10, 3-bed: Sea Views,  
Wide Horizons, Aberaeron.  
Perfect condition

£7,995 inc fees. Call 07881 203997

## devon

PAIGNTON  
The Kingswinford  
4\* ACCOMMODATION  
JAN TO MARCH  
Any 3 Nights B&B £54pp or 3 Nights  
B&B & 2 course eve Meal £73ppFAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE  
CHILD DISCOUNTS  
All rooms en suite  
100 yards to beach and pier  
Contractors Welcome  
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holidaysSaundersfoot Bungalow  
3 Bed, all on suite, sleeps 8, Central  
heating, TV, Video, Washing  
machine, Dishwasher, Microwave  
Ring brochure  
0121 353 1575

## weddings

car hire

A ALL YEAR DISCOUNT! White  
Rolls Royce, Shadow & Vintage  
with free hire of Jaguar. 01384  
236188 / 01902 887628 www.elite-  
wedding-services.magix.net

## what's on

## auctions

Aston's  
Auctioneers & Valuers  
FREE VALUATIONS EVERY  
WEDNESDAY 10am - 4pm  
Bayliss Hall, Tower St.,  
Dudley, DY1 1NB  
See website for auction  
calendar and more info  
or call us today:  
General - 01384 212555  
Toys - 01384 250220  
www.astonsauctioneers.co.uk  
www.astonsauctioneers.co.ukmind, body  
& soulHEBRON COUNSELLING. A new  
compassionate, local service. For  
appointments call 07798 611253.

## counselling

PSYCHIC READINGS & party book-  
ings. West Brom indoor market.  
Special Offer £15. 07957 107958.

## psychics

## 3 Home &amp; Services

## furniture

SPRING SALE  
Furniture Factory Outlet  
Worcester extra value divan single was £399 now  
£265. 0785 39350. One Sofa Bed etc etc in  
fabric or faux leather was £399 now £119, ortho  
mattress from £99, memory foam mattress £99, metal  
fashion beds frames £39, ottoman and leather  
seigh beds, over 1000 mattresses, wing chairs  
£119, recliner chairs £199, massage power  
recliners from £299, complete suites from £299.  
Save up to 50% on leather corner units-1/2 price  
£249. 3 seater Winford fabric sofa-Chester  
£149. Chairs £49. Recliners leather £199.  
Mattresses from £29. Bunk bed frames £39.BFC, Unit 9, Coneygre Rd, Burnt Tree, off  
Great Bridge Rd A461 Dudley, DY4 7RG.  
20mins past Tolly Carvery behind The Warehouse. 7 days. 9am-4  
pm. 0121 557 6885DINING ROOM SUITE Highly polished,  
table, 4 chairs, 2 carvers,  
rose pink seats, good condition £70  
ono. 01902 780581.DISPLAY CABINET best quality  
yew, 70" high, 18" width. £75 ono.  
01384 235120.TABLE AND SIDEBORD  
Dining table and 6 chairs, with  
matching sideboard. Modern  
design, as new, excellent condition.  
Cost £1,200 from Cousins.  
Move forces sale.  
£500.  
0121 5301857.THREE PIECE SUITE, leather and  
cloth, wine / beige colour, very  
modern, 14 months old, good condition,  
£250. 01902 569682.THREE SEATER LEATHER  
SOFA  
Left/right hand seats recline  
plus arm chair recliner, in glow  
ivory plus three foot pine bed  
with mattress.  
£250 ono buyer to collect from  
Tipton, 07768 931281TWO SOFAS 3 seater, 2 seater,  
oatmeal chenille fabric very good  
condition, 1 lady owner £500 the two.  
01902 780581.TWO-SEATER Black leather sofa.  
As new condition, hardly used.  
£250. 07735 306058.household  
appliancesLEC FREEZER used once, as new,  
19" high, £75.  
Please text 07946 154304.WANTED COOKERS, fridges,  
washers, must be good, clean condition  
and working. 07944 351351ZANUSSI WASHER, £125. Beko  
gas cooker, glass top, £145. Hot-  
point tumble dryer, £80. Good condition.  
01902 700155.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement  
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on the first day of publication.

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Auctioneers & Valuers  
FREE VALUATIONS EVERY  
WEDNESDAY 10am - 4pm  
Bayliss Hall, Tower St.,  
Dudley, DY1 1NB  
See website for auction  
calendar and more info  
or call us today:  
General - 01384 212555  
Toys - 01384 250220  
www.astonsauctioneers.co.uk  
www.astonsauctioneers.co.ukmind, body  
& soulHEBRON COUNSELLING. A new  
compassionate, local service. For  
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veneer, cream marble back/pinh,  
56" x 45", can email photo,  
collect only. £40. 01902 676554

## items wanted

WANTED ANY OLD TOOLS  
CASH PAID  
Hand tools, anything considered.  
01543 452491 / 07539 340307ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce  
CASH PAID TODAY  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER  
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester  
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins  
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • All toys  
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver  
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Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc  
ANYTHING OLD &  
INTERESTING  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given  
for single items or houses cleared.  
Antiques, old, reproductions. Call:  
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in your garden

Top Soil,  
Building Sand  
Paving/Concrete Sand  
Decorative Gravels  
Delivered Bagged or Loose  
01902 893226A AND B GRADE CULTIVATED  
TURF £1.20 / £2.10 a roll. Top soil.  
Laying service. 07944 241615.ACE FENCING. A better quality  
panel. Supply/Fit. Free Quotes: 31  
Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723910HANGING BASKETS, Flowering  
bags & Chrysanthemum stools.  
Competitive Prices. 01902 762500SUFFOLK PUNCH cylinder electric  
12 lawn mower, nearly new, £200  
ono. 07807 386145.TREES FELLED Pruned, Turling,  
fencing, slabbing, hedging, tree  
removal, garden clearance, fully insured.  
Arboricultural Assoc & Council  
approved. 01



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**\*SPECIAL OFFER\***  
10 Days of quality fencing  
concrete posts, gravel boards &  
heavy duty panels supplied and fitted  
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Mobile: 07866 137656

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For all your Patio's,  
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Lawns cut, Borders,  
Garden clearances  
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Please call: 01384 403353  
or 07929 600636

ALL GARDEN WORK undertaken  
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ances. Call Gavin 07804 532905.  
GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per  
garden, 25 years experience. Call  
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**A BOILER BREAKDOWN REPAIR OR SERVICE**  
Cookers & gas fires  
fitted, landlord certs,  
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Call J&E Heating:  
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07969 687832.

**GAS SERVICES**  
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• Cookers  
• Fires  
• Gas Checks  
• Landlord Certificates  
• Gas Leaks Traced  
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired  
Same Day Service  
Free Quotes  
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs  
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07761 973975

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**PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**  
A1 GUTTERING  
cleaned, repaired, replaced, fascias/  
soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/  
repointing work. Free quotes, 8am-8pm  
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**YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN**  
FREE QUOTES  
All work guaranteed. All trades  
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CALL MIKE: 07947 621047  
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locks, plastering, plumbing, roofing  
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01902 653100 / 07958 022762.

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ABSOLUTELY BEST cash price paid  
for house clearances and bereave-  
ments. Tel: 07852 172641.

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**LOW COST KITCHENS**  
HIGH QUALITY 18mm CABINETS AS STANDARD  
SOFT CLOSE HINGES FREE OF CHARGE  
KITCHENS FROM £499 - NEVER BEATEN ON PRICE  
FREE MEASURE AND DESIGN SERVICE  
CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE 0121 2888003  
SPEEDY KITCHENS, JOHN STREET, WILLENHALL, WS13 9PW  
SPEEDY KITCHENS, EPOAD STREET, SUTTON, ST1 4EZ

**home improvements**  
NEW BATTERY for your oil power  
tool too expensive. Re-call now for  
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**painters / decorators**  
**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**  
Reliable & Friendly, Professional  
Female Painter and Decorator  
Quality work with competitive prices.  
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.  
Plastering & Gilding Work Undertaken  
01384 285777 or 07812 484194

**CALL M & B DECORATORS**  
**City & Guilds**  
No job too small  
Free Quote  
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A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING  
service by RC Decorating. Free  
competitive quotes: 07773 025880.  
C I PAINTING & DECORATING  
Over 25 yrs experience. City &  
Guilds approved. Free Quotes.  
01902 683678 / 07890 879 892.  
INTERIOR PAINTER AND DECOR-  
ATOR Friendly and reliable, clean  
and tidy. Call Deb 01384 821846 /  
07502 396385

**plans prepared**  
ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans.  
Drawn and submitted to council.  
Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037.  
Email: adamdesign@sky.com  
01902 683678 / 07890 879 892.  
BUILDING PLANS: Prepared/submit-  
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07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk  
DRAWINGS FOR Planning, build-  
ing regs, extensions 01902 868841  
www.epwolverhampton.co.uk  
HOME EXTENSION PLANS Council  
approved. 01902 687802/07812  
071658 call/hj@blueyonder.co.uk

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**DOMESTIC PLASTERING**  
rendering & small building  
work undertaken. 35 years  
experience. For a free quote  
Call Roy  
07583 643932  
07887 495726

SPEC ONE PLASTERING & general  
maintenance. Fast, reliable, profes-  
sional service. Free quotes.  
Dean 01384823492/07772315165  
STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE  
Clean and Reliable. All Work  
Undertaken. All Areas. Call  
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

**property maintenance**  
All Maintenance and Repairs. Most  
trades covered. Carpentry, door  
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**plumbers**  
**DG PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS**  
Decorating, Gardening, Woodwork,  
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Fitted & Replaced. Gas Safe.  
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Reliable and experienced  
plumber, free quotes  
Call Dave  
01384 823863 - 07854 338356

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Com-  
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Showers, Blockages 07976 012468

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler &  
rads £2,200. Boiler changes from  
£1,200. All aspects of plumbing  
work undertaken. Call 0790327 or  
07973 721206.

**plumbing & heating**  
KEIRON JONES HEATING Full  
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Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.  
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs  
**£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler**  
Installed in April. T&C apply  
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Gas Safe Registered.  
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Dan: 07807 818730

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**ABLE REMOVALS**  
Local & Distance  
Domestic & Commercial  
Competitive Prices  
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Local  
Careful Firm  
Full or Part loads  
Call Don:  
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or 07749 941319

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**REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES**  
Single items,  
Full houses, Offices etc  
Recession rates,  
FREE QUOTES  
We take the stress away  
40 years experience  
07966 281957

**CHEAPER REMOVALS**  
NATIONWIDE, INSURED,  
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Single Items to Full Removals.  
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local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121  
422 2999 or 07815 043724  
CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic,  
Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1  
item 07429 453209 / 01902 830870  
01384 940260 / 01922 263460.  
CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.  
Removals, clearances. Items large  
or small. Call: 01902 741546 or  
07917 97960.

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**FREE FASCIA AND SOFFIT**  
with every new roof.  
**D. Baker ROOFING**  
All aspects of roofing.  
Solar panels supplied/fitted.  
Work fully guaranteed. Terms apply  
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**MG ROOFING**  
Flat roofs, tiling,  
roof repairs, fascias  
and gutters.  
01902 238989 or  
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**AT M&M SKIPS**  
Fast, friendly service  
All areas covered  
All sizes  
Same day service  
Freephone  
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01902 238989 or  
07580 465449

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**RE-UPHOLSTERY SPECIALISTS.**  
Your suite / chair re-upholstered /  
repaired as new. Free quotes. Est  
40 years. Call 01902 404698.

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ALL READERS are advised to  
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Passport information.

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**BLITZ SKIPS**  
■ AFFORDABLE SKIPS  
■ 2-50 YARD SKIPS  
■ AVAILABLE  
■ LOCAL COMPANY  
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■ FRIENDLY SERVICE  
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All areas covered  
Immediate delivery  
Competitive prices  
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All neutered, inoculated  
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Call Greyhound Trust  
01922 412212 or  
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Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer.  
1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

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Boys and Girls. £250.  
Telephone 07969 805045.  
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Telephone 07847 870218.

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april, £250.  
Telephone 07847 870218.  
**GOLDEN RETRIEVER** puppies, KC  
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wormed, 4 weeks free insurance,  
reared in the home, both parents  
good hip scores and can be seen,  
£600 each. 01630 661740.  
**JACK RUSSELL** free to good home,  
lovely temperament, good with chil-  
dren, 9 years old, genuine personal  
reasons for sale. 07580 356087.

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service. W-ton, fully insured & reg.  
Senior citizen rates. 07855 275537.  
**KC REG MINIATURE Schnauzer**  
bitch, 1 year old, eye screening cer-  
tificate clear, wormed and fixed to  
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**\*\*\*KIND HOMES WANTED\*\*\***  
IVY Small black and white  
terrier girl,  
**TODD** 14 month old Staffie  
boy, nice little chap.  
**MURPHY** 6 month old Collie x  
Huntaway puppy  
**FRANKIE** 9 month old Springer  
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black and white Jack Russell  
**CARLA** 13 month old Collie x  
Terrier, small lovable girl.  
**MISSY** 5 year old black and  
white Border Collie  
**TAMMY** 3 year old cross breed  
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More info  
Call 01588 676106  
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

**POM-CHIS PUPPIES** (Pomeran-  
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**POMERANIAN PUPPIES.**  
Boys and girls, £395.  
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**SCOTTIE PUPS** with parents, great  
temperament, non moult-  
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Sue for further details on 01948  
662784. 07939 036441.  
**SHIH-POOS** (Shih-Tzu/Poodle),  
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ing, boys and girls, £295. 07972 604503.

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**BMW Z4**, 53 reg, 91,000 miles, MoT, tax, excellent condition, new car forces sale, £4,750 o.n.o. 01902 782344 (day)/01952 293307 (eve)

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**FORD KA 1.3**, 07 Reg, 37k miles, one lady owner, 10 months MoT, very good condition, £2,245. 07850 113660.

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**HONDA CRV I-VETEC SE SPORT** Automatic, petrol, 2002, 90,000 miles, silver, MoT July, tax Oct. £1,950. 07989 320645.

**KIA PICANTO SPICE**. 2010. (60). Hatchback, 5 speed, manual, petrol, 999cc, 15,000 miles. 1 previous owner. FSH, Tax, MoT. Immaculate condition. £4,500. o.n.o. Telephone 07513 004802.

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**MINI 1**, 2004, 115,000 miles, dark green, diesel full MoT and service history, 1 previous owner, sunroof, £3,195. 07734 685186.

**NISSAN NAVARA**  
Double cab 4x4 pick up, 59 reg, 70k miles, very tidy condition, roller lock bed liner, anti-lock brakes, multiple airbags, tow bar, traction control, alarm, EW, FSH, tow bar, load liner, side steps, alloys, CD, AC.  
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**PEUGEOT 207**, 09 reg, 5 door, silver, petrol, 16,500 miles, lady owner, good condition, MoT, tax, CD, £4,750 ono. 07886 781724.

**PEUGEOT 307 HDI DIESEL** **TURBO** 2.0 04, 5-dr, silver, full MoT, six months tax, 73,000 miles. £1,995. 07838 897643.

**RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE**  
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**TOYOTA COROLLA** Verso 1.8 73, 2005, 106k miles, silver, 9 months tax and MoT, 7 seats, parking sensors, £2,495. 07585 270808.

**VW POLO 1.4** Match 80, 2008, hatch, 3dr, auto, petrol, silver, 53k miles, 2 owners, full MoT, tax end of June, £4,200 ono. 07503 557530.

**cars under £1500**

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**BMW 320i** SE auto, 2001, petrol, tax, MoT, 135k, all leather, good condition, £750. 01902 344177.

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**NISSAN ALMERA 1.5S**, 2003, new MoT, 64,800 miles, genuine reason for sale, £550. 01902 335892.

**PEUGEOT 106 1100cc**, 2002, MoT October, tax February, 83,000 miles, PAS, clean and tidy, £575. 07884 297114.

**RENAULT CLIO 51** plate, 12 months MoT, no tax, £600 ono. 07730 871076.

**RENAULT LAGUNA 2i** Expression, 55 reg, silver, Sept 02, March Tax, sh, alloys, cd, lovely car in and out. £1,295. 07796 761902.

**RENAULT LAGUNA V6**, 1999, 85,500 miles, blue, good condition, leather, full MoT, tax, £725 ono. Telephone 07909 158863.

**RENAULT MEGAN 1600** Coupe, 51, Tax May, MoT June, service history, excellent condition, £700. 01902 656292.

**RENAULT MEGANE** Convertible, 2003, tax/MoT, good runner, £999. 01902 490826.

**RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.6**, 03 reg, Automatic, 49,000 miles. Full MoT, Good condition, £950. 01902 783851 or 07446 225033.

**RENAULT MEGANE** Scenic Alize, 1.6, 16v, 5-dr, green, 95k, excellent runner - economical, fish, MoT August, £550. 01902 751968.

**RENAULT SCENIC 1.4** CG model, 52 plate, blue, average mileage, CD radio, 12 months MoT, £1,000 ono. 07933 819320.

**ROVER 214SEI** 1995, nightfire red, s/roof, alloys, leather, MoT Jul 25, low miles, excellent, £2495 ono. 01902 780879 / 07768 842821.

**SMART CAR**. Left Hand Drive, 2001, MoT till Aug, Tax till June. 52,000 miles. Very good condition. Private plate with car.

**£1,100**  
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**TACUMA CDX** Automatic, 6 months MoT, taxed, 53 reg, good condition. £850 ono. 01922 442654.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6**, 5-dr, Automatic, petrol, MoT, March 2015, 56,677 miles, 1997, £250. 01785 241561.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0SRI** 1999, 99,000 miles, service history, excellent condition, metallic blue, abs, electric windows, alarm, long MoT, tax, alloys, CD player. £995 ono. 07970 275106.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0** 2003, very good condition, full MoT, 1 months tax, £1,000 ono. 07531 614559.

**VAUXHALL CORSA SXI** 3 door, blue, 04 reg, 9 months Tax, 12 months MoT, CD/Radio, E/W, E/M, C/L. £1,425 ono. 07732 818005. Wolverhampton.

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**VOLVO 940 N** reg. 2.3, leather interior, alloy wheels, very good condition, spare or repairs. £280 ono. 01902 666032.

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**9**  
**Local Information**

**public & legal notices**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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**Marie Hogg on**  
**01902 713146**  
or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)  
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**10**  
**Personals**

**personal**

**ALONE? OVER 35?**  
Introduction for Friendship/Companionship. Birmingham/West Mids areas.  
**Contact Jane Stephens for FREE details: 01432 355144**  
**www.janestephensbureau.co.uk Est. 1977.**

**ASIAN MALE, 50,**  
N/S, enjoys reading, gardening, outings and the quiet things in life. W/LTM bubbly lady, 45-55, looks unimportant, who enjoys similar things, for friendship / possible relationship.  
**Box Number P19131, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**CALL SEXY LOCAL WOMEN** for no fees adult fun. Contact 0700 802 3093 for details.

**???**

**LADY 63 YEARS**  
N/S with young outlook.  
W/LTM Sincere gentleman, n/s, between 60 - 65, with GSOH, who enjoys holidays, meals out, theatre etc, to hopefully have a future together.

From Stourbridge/surrounding areas.

**Box Number P19129, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**MALE 58**  
Non Smoker, tall, well built, kind, GSOH, caring nature, retired, no ties, W/LTM nice female, non smoker who would like to cruise the inland waterways of England with a view to permanently doing this if we are compatible, so would suit someone who has no ties. Genuine replies welcome.  
**Box Number P19132, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**RETIRED GENTLEMAN 65**  
W/LTM Lady for friendship, possible relationship. I don't drive. I enjoy keeping fit, running, walking, I enjoy going for meals, cosy nights in.  
**Box Number P19140, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**general**

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**star★extraTRAVEL**

**LONDON THEATRE**



**Coach inclusive breaks – Two days**

**Selected weekend departures**

**Saturday Night from £139.<sup>95</sup>**

**Dine and Dance from £149.<sup>95</sup>**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance.

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*"The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.*

*Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)*

**For a theatre brochure or a list of our current breaks, please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratrans](http://expressandstar.com/starextratrans)**

**Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions**

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Small Jobs  
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**Local Specialists**

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TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND:  
CHAT26 TO : 80098 (T&C'S  
BELOW)

## Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53  
per minute plus network  
extras. Texts cost £1.50 per  
message sent.

29YR old black beautiful busty  
tall loving very sensual lady,  
likes football, making friends,  
seeking genuine white male for  
enjoyable loving relationship.  
Pls no time wasters. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No:  
410577

YOUNG early 40's female,  
GSOH, kind, caring,  
considerate, seeks male for  
friendship, possible romance.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 410847

SAM, 35yrs, own business,  
sexy, loves dressing up and  
married, seeks discreet man  
for casual meetings. Can travel  
anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905  
002 1961 Box 408297

CAROL 38 attractive romantic  
not looking for fairy tales just  
happy endings, seeking lovely  
male to put the sparkle back  
into my life. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall  
feminine attractive lady who  
loves good company, fine  
wine/food, travel, WLTW tall  
professional for romance dates  
and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 410627

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57,  
nurse, looking for someone to  
look after me. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 410543

MICHELLE 37, looking for  
laughter fun and romance with  
the right guy, if you could be  
him and have nothing to loose  
call me for a chat. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No:  
410415

SUE 38, attractive  
broadminded attentive, enjoys  
meals in/out etc, not  
necessarily looking for Mr  
Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr  
Right now could be fun! Call  
me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 411049

ANGIE attractive slim blonde  
just looking for a lovely  
spontaneous guy who like me  
just wants good company and  
a nice relationship. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No:  
410641

SARAH, married lady seeks  
discreet no strings fun with  
gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002  
1949 Box 408291

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing  
single female looking to enjoy  
dates with similar male also  
looking for fun times in or out.  
Age, looks unimportant. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
410565

PAULINE attractive divorced  
female with no ties, employed  
with my own home, likes nights  
in/out, lots of tlc to give to the  
right person, call me for a chat,  
maybe more. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 411039

ANNA, busty mature lady  
seeks no strings discreet  
meetings with male any age or  
location. Tel No: 0905 002  
1956 Box 366019

JEN attractive sensual petite  
blonde with OHAC seeks  
confident fit professional male  
to enjoy and share good times  
if that's you pls get in touch. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
410949

ARE you dark or bald, with  
haiky chest, well built,  
educated, verbal, articulate  
dom or sub, broadminded and  
ready to be put in your place?  
Curious to find out more? Call  
me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 410637

NINA, black beauty, looking for  
discreet adult times with man  
any age. Tel: 0905 002 1957  
Box 409091

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive,  
outgoing, likes walks, dogs,  
cooking, seeks male for fun  
and friendship. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual  
female, very naughty,  
broadminded and open,  
looking for similar fun guy for  
uncomplicated adult meets.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 409719

JANE attractive, feminine  
open-minded mature female  
genuinely looking for adult fun.  
No time wasters please. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
409715

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde,  
own home, no ties, likes films,  
reading, travel, music, good  
social circle, seeking that  
someone special. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 410105

ATTRACTIVE professional  
lady, 56, enjoys country walks,  
meals out, seeks professional  
gent with GSOH to enjoy the  
good things in life. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No:  
409895

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful  
classy intelligent, loves to have  
lots of fun and enjoy life to the  
full, seeking mature guy to  
make me happy. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 409911

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft  
7ins, likes music, meals out,  
seeks white male, 45-55 with  
similar interests and GSOH for  
friendship, maybe more. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
410499

73YR old Hereford lady,  
GSOH, young at heart, many  
interests, seeks caring,  
genuine gent of similar age for  
friendship, maybe more. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
410331

NICKY bubbly curvy fun  
blonde, varied interests, enjoys  
meals out, holidays, seeking  
N/S male with GSOH for  
possible ltr. Looks unimportant.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking  
petite blonde, enjoys nights  
out, music, etc, WLTW for  
more than just friendship with  
similar chilled, kind, easy going  
guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 410461

## Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53  
per minute plus network  
extras. Texts cost £1.50 per  
message sent.

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT  
TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND:  
CHAT26 TO : 80098 (T&C'S  
BELOW)

MALE WLTW pear shaped  
lady, 50-55. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 411109

PAUL 62, seeks attractive  
Wolverhampton lady for  
discreet daytime fun. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No:  
411099

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active,  
caring, easy going male, N/S,  
68, GSOH, seeks genuine  
lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No:  
411083

TOM 31, seeking female for  
fun times. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 411165

LOVING caring guy 61 who  
likes most things in life would  
love to meet lady 57 to 63 for  
romance. Text Only Mailbox  
Box No: 4210872

6FT male, nice personality.  
Non smoker. Fun  
times, lots of time to give to a  
nice lady. Text Only Mailbox  
Box No: 4162393

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks  
100% adult fun with woman,  
any age/looks or status. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
411253

visit us at: <http://dating.expressandstar.com>

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**You'll**  
**love it!**  
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**REAL people REAL ads**

## How to use your dating service

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and follow the simple instructions

To **Place** your ad by text  
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name,  
date of birth, area and your advert (max 155  
characters) and send to **80098 FREE**  
(Standard Network rates apply)

**Reply to members call:**  
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call cost £1.53 per min  
**Before you dial!** Have the adverts 6-digit box  
number written down and **key-it-in promptly**  
when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details  
for replies.

**Reply to members from your**  
**mobile call 68118**

calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network charges

Or **text.. REPLY 26** (leave a space) then enter  
the six-digit box number given on their advert  
(leave a space) and then enter your message &  
send to **80098**, eg:  
**REPLY 26123456 hi get in touch...**  
then send to **80098**

Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per  
message (Max 160 characters). You must  
exchange 7 messages each before you can swap  
contact details. Messages may be moderated for  
your safety and security.

**Date ONLINE**  
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**mobile**. Simply **VISIT** us at:  
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calls cost £1.53 per min  
**PLUS** you can also listen to other  
members greetings on this number.

**CUSTOMER SUPPORT**  
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10am-4pm or email us at [support@jmediauk.co.uk](mailto:support@jmediauk.co.uk)

SEAN 46, brown hair/eyes,  
average looks/build, loving,  
caring, understanding, seeks  
female to share good times  
with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
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## Casuals find Tivs' four-ce too much

W-ton Casuals FC 1  
Tivdale FC 4

WITH a mixture of youth and fringe players, Tivdale were able to make 10 changes to the side that defeated Shepshed.

In an entertaining game Tivdale overcame Wolves Casuals with two goals each from teenagers Matt Morgan and Garfield Robinson and the result meant that Tivdale go through to the JW Hunt Cup semi-final.

In the proverbial game of two halves, Casuals took a deserved lead on 36 minutes when midfielder Nathan Jackson's looping header evaded Tivdale keeper Jack Hayfield and nestled in the net.

The second half was 12 minutes old when a heavily deflected shot from youth player Morgan brought Tivdale level. That and the introduction of substitute Ryan Winwood who literally ran the second half, transformed Tivdale and they added a second from a ball into the box, leaving a tap-in for Morgan. The goal of the game came soon after when Robinson hit a screamer into the far corner and then Robinson was on hand again to stroke home his second and Tivdale's fourth from a great cross from Matt Jukes.

## Pedmore produce solid win

Pedmore (136-3) beat Swindon (71 all out) by 65 runs with 2.2 overs remaining

PEDMORE confirmed the long expected destination of the Kinvor indoor cricket league with a comprehensive victory over Swindon with a game to spare.

Powerful batting from Sam Perruzza (31no) Dan Jones (32no) and John Hurdman (25no) taking Pedmore to 78 before losing their first wicket. Dan Cooper looked comfortable on his first appearance of the season until bowled for 7. Sacrifices by lower order batsmen brought Jones and Perruzza back to the crease to cruise to 136. Lye were unable to field a team against Belbroughton.

# Old Hales put heavy loss behind them

Old Halesonians 22 Hinckley 18

HALES first team returned to league action following a heavy loss to top of the league Broadstreet last week. The earlier meeting at Hinckley in the season saw Hales totally in command in the first half but Hinckley used forward strength to win the spoils.

This game was the opposite, despite initial pressure by the home side Hales putting some useful phases together, the Hinckley defence stood strong.

After several attempts by Hales forwards to force their way over the line, it was wing Simon Sabel who collected from the base

### Rugby

and scored the first try of the game 5 - 0.

Again a great start that gave the home support some confidence, but not for long. Hinckley picked up the pace and drove continually into the Hales defence with some great driving mauls.

The running power of the Hinckley left winger gave the visitors their first try following loose play by Hales backs. The winger intercepted to score unopposed to give them a lead 5 - 7.

It was Hinckley with the upper hand for the rest of the half and without some resolute defence by Hales the game could have been over at half time. Again the visitors fed their winger who scored under the posts for a half-time lead.

After 65 minutes Hales won a line out, the ball found it's way to stalwart Tom Jordan who smashed his way from 20 yards out to score, converted by Stephen Powell 12-14. Continued pressure from kick off forced a penalty for Hales which Powell slotted to lead 15 - 14. Ten more minutes of constant pressure from a much improved set

of backs, particularly centre Carl Robinson whose defensive tackling was immense. Hooker Pete Fitzgerald made a break through the visitors defence in their 22 to feed centre Andy Holloway in support who scored the try of the match.

Powell took the difficult conversion but he was on a role to lead 22-14. To their credit Hinckley came back in the last five minutes for an unconverted try to give a home victory to Hales 22 - 18. Skipper Rich Taylor received a multiple fracture of his cheekbone which will keep him out until next season.

## Saxons dig deep and keep hope alive

Saxons 14

**Darlington M Park 5**  
THIS was a huge game for the Saxons, one they simply could not afford to lose were their promotion hopes to be kept alive.

They smothered the life out of a misfiring Mowden Park outfit back in November.

DMP's dangerous threequarters always looked capable of scoring, but saw the chances they had snuffed out by the defensive ethic of a home team that wanted it just that bit more.

A chip through by fly half Sam Robinson produced an attacking five metre scrum at which the Saxons pack dug deep to drive their opponents backwards, No.8 Chris Depper bagging a pushover try at the base.

Jamie Hearn slotted a penalty and the half ended at 8-0.

Another maul collapse saw a yellow card for DMP lock Talite Vailoleti. But numbers were levelled as lock Ben Hughes got a 10 minute break for a deliberate knock-on.

DMP laid siege and were rewarded when Zylon McGaffin forced his way over to cut the lead to just three points.

Back came the Saxons and Hearn converted two penalties.

# Mike perks up score to give Town the win

Highgate United 2 Tipton Town 3

**TIPTON TOWN** once again frustrated Highgate United by backing up their semi-final cup victory over the Solihull side with a 3-2 away success in the Midlands Football Alliance League.

Town hit back from their 6-2 home defeat against Boldmere.

Smarting from that mauling, Town kicked off in a determined mood and took the lead on six minutes when Marvin Nisbett turned the home side's Craig Hall and then enforced Dean Curtis to divert the ball past his own goalkeeper, Chris Jay.

After further pressure by Tipton, weathered well by the home side, the scores were tied in the 11th minute. Shane Benjamin drilled home a penalty after home dangerman Lei Brown was upended when haring for goal.

Brown was in the thick of it again minutes later, when some incisive play by his colleagues, Curtis and Karl King, put him clear. His raking left-footer crashed high into the Tipton side-netting.

Mensah Kinch and Andy Dicken went close as Tipton continued to threaten. Connor Gater fully extended the home keeper after fine constructive work by Mike Perks.

And the visitors deservedly went ahead when Matt Weymann drove home in the 36th minute.

Good build-up play by skipper Chris Waterhouse, and John Hill forged openings for Matt Weyman and Marvin Nisbett as the

### Football

visitors enjoyed a period of superiority.

Nisbett forced a fine stop from Jay when heading for goal to meet Danny Ashton's swinging cross.

On the stroke of half-time, though, play rapidly switched to the other end where visiting keeper James Pemberton preserved Tipton's narrow lead with a good save from dangerman Brown.

Andrew Dicken and Perks ensured Tipton began the second period on the front foot. Clever, constructive interplay between the pair threatened the home goal again only for a strong telling interception from Highgate's Craig Hall to halt their progress.

But in the 64th minute Highgate drew level when Dean Curtis was quickest to react to a loose ball in the area and lashed home.

But Highgate, while still congratulating themselves, then paid the price for a slip in concentration. Inventive play by Nisbet and Kinch engineered an opening for a gleeful Mike Perks to restore Tipton's lead with a quick-fire reply, on 65 minutes.

## Bathams get on board with the big bikes



Team principal Ian Woollacott and riders Patrick Muff and Michael Rutter plus bike at Bathams Brewery

MICHAEL RUTTER will be riding BMW 1000s under team IWR, machinery throughout this year's British Superbike Championship and road racing campaign.

The rider from Brierley Hill officially unveiled his new motorbikes at local Bathams hostelry The Vine pub this week.

Rutter will enter the 2014 British Superbike Championship with the full backing of the Black Country brewery after they agreed to be his

main sponsors once again. He will be riding BMW 1000s under team IWR, along with Swiss rider Patrick Muff, who will be his team-mate this year in the BSB.

Rutter will also be racing at the International North West 200 road races in Northern Island, where he has already picked up 13 wins, followed by the Isle of Man TT races, where he broke a 130mph average lap around the famous 37.73 mile

course last year for the first time.

The road racing campaign will also be backed by Bathams and Rutter will form another two-man team, with Irishman Stephen Thompson.

The Bathams team will start testing this week at the Donington Park race-track. The first race of the BSB season will take place at Brands Hatch in Kent over the Easter weekend, April 19 to April 20. The North West 200 will be held in May.

## Lambert lays down gauntlet

BOSS Paul Lambert has challenged Villa to finally secure their Premier League place and insisted they will need less than 40 points to survive.

Villa are still in danger after Saturday's 4-1 defeat to Manchester United left them 12th. They host rock-bottom Fulham on Saturday before going to struggling Crystal Palace. And Lambert insisted he doesn't believe Villa need to hit the recognised benchmark for survival to stay up.

"I don't think it will take 40 points this year," he said, with Villa eight points above the bottom three with seven games left.

"If you look at the fixtures everybody's got, it's really tough."

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# SPORT

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**Perked up**  
Away success as  
Tipton do double win  
**Page 43**

**Batham's bike**  
Local brewer backing  
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**Page 43**



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## High five boost for survival of Sports

### Bustleholme 2 Dudley Sports 5

DUDDLEY Sports took a massive step in their battle to stay in the West Midlands League Premier Division and by doing so put more pressure on Bustleholme.

Bustleholme started the better and Jason Walters almost put them ahead on two minutes when his shot came back off the bar.

Sports found the strong wind difficult and keeper Dom Richard came to their rescue on a couple of occasions.

But as the half progressed they started to get on top and took the lead on 25 minutes when Craig Tibbetts turned in a Jordan Harrison cross.

Bustleholme were level within five minutes when Mo Drawl raced clear and fired home.

The Bs took the lead five minutes from the interval when a defensive mistake allowed Jack Whittall in.

In stoppage time Harrison was tripped in the box and he picked himself up to hammer home the resulting penalty to equalise.

Sports took control in the second half and Richie Jones put them in front on the hour mark.

Harrison completed his brace and Jones added his own second as Sports ran out comfortable winners.

## Baggies play down bust-up

WEST Bromwich Albion have said as far as they are concerned the changing room bust-up involving Saido Berahino is done and dusted.

A Club spokesman said: "Tensions were understandably running high in the dressing room after Cardiff's late equaliser but the incident has been sensationalised in the media.

"What happened is not uncommon in a dressing room and shows the players care. The players involved have apologised. The Club has drawn a line under the matter and is now fully focussing on Saturday's important game at Norwich."

The Baggies' and England Under-21s marksman was left with a head wound when tempers flared in the wake of Saturday's 3-3 home draw with Cardiff.

The 20-year-old was involved in a verbal spat.

## Yeltz keep their gap at the top of the table

### Halesowen Town 3 Scarborough Athletic 0

HALESOWEN maintained a four-point gap at the top of the table with a comfortable victory guaranteeing a play-off place at the very least.

Ben Haseley and Joe Hull both went close with early Yeltz headers, spurred on by 601 fans - the highest attendance in the whole league this season.

Haseley soon set the Yeltz on course by finishing off his 30th goal of the season from close range in the 9th minute after lysesden Christie waltzed around a hesitant

### Football

visiting rearguard missing two suspended central defenders.

Just seconds later Haseley missed another glorious chance when he planted a free header wide.

Jordan Thewlis posed Scarborough's main threat and he hit a 30th minute half-volley just past the post before curling over the bar six minutes before the interval.

After a slow start to the second period, man-of-the-match Christie deservedly doubled the Yeltz lead by confidently smashing

home a 56th minute penalty after being brought down by Matthew Plummer.

Within a minute Christie burst forward again and selflessly squared the ball to Haseley, but he was denied by a blocking save from visiting goalkeeper Jason White.

The Seadogs pushed forward in the latter stages with substitute Grant Ryan and Gary Bradshaw both going close.

But Haseley made it a resounding 3-0 in the 84th minute by lofting a brilliant finish over goalkeeper White after latching onto Neil MacKenzie's through ball. With two minutes remaining MacKenzie skil-

fully skipped several challenges but White turned his 20-yard shot around the post.

**Halesowen Town:** Sargeant; Green, Charlton (Kelly 85), MacKenzie, Hull (c), Tilt, Griffiths, Botfield (Tonks 76), Christie, Haseley (Gueyes 85), Danks.

**Unused Subs:** Penney, Pearson (GK).

**Scarborough Athletic:** White; Middleton, Sheppard, Plummer, Foot (c) (Atkinson 64), Beadle, Thewlis, Hughes (Ryan 20), Blott (Barlow 68), Bradshaw, Williams.

**Unused Subs:** None.

**Referee:** John Law.

**Attendance:** 601

## Demand for first leg lead

WILL Pottinger is desperate to see his Cradley side build a handy lead when they face King's Lynn in what is now the first leg of the National Shield at Monmore next Tuesday.

Heathens are chasing a fourth successive success in the competition but for the first time they are racing as defending league champions.

And following last week's postponement of the first leg at the Norfolk Arena, Pottinger says his side have to go on the front foot from the start.

"It's vital for us to build up a handy lead," he said. "King's Lynn were our nearest challengers for the league title last season and they've built a good side once again.

"We will have a full team available with no fixture clashes so I'm pleased about that and hopefully we can get into them early and build up a lead."

Meanwhile Pottinger is staying relaxed despite the trade magazine, Speedway Star, making Cradley firm favourite for the league title once again in their survey of journalists around the country.

## Dorrans primed for a key role

PEPE MEL has singled out Graham Dorrans for a key role in Albion's battle for Premier League survival.

It marks a dramatic change of fortunes for the Scotland international.

But the revival of his career has been one of the positive features of the Spanish head coach's reign so far at the Hawthorns.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, April 3

# DK'S OPTIMISM SOON SHATTERED

### Sheffield Tigers 45 DK 8

DK travelled to fellow strugglers Sheffield Tigers with a slight degree of optimism.

However, it was not long before any thoughts of a first victory of the season were dispelled in a game riddled with errors from both teams.

In the 11th minute the Tigers opened their account.

Following a line out, their forwards recycled the ball very well and eventually it was worked to their three quarters and centre Nicholas Thomson crossed for the try. Thomas Outram added the extras.

Three minutes later Sheffield were unlucky not to go further ahead when the referee disallowed them a try deeming there had been a double movement. There then followed a tense period of play between the two 20 metre lines.

### Territory

However, in the 23rd minute DK were penalised for not releasing and the home side kicked deep into Dudley territory and from the line out they scored an identical try to the first. This time it was winger Peter Swatkins who scored. Once again Thomas Outram added the additional points.

Dudley then enjoyed 15 minutes of possession only to spurn two promising opportunities by knocking on. Just before half time DK were dealt two telling blows. Firstly Al Francis injured a hand and was replaced by Richard Hickman and Jon Tideswell received a yellow card for persistent infringements.

### Rugby

Tigers immediately took advantage of the situation when second row Joshua Redfern forced his way over for a try following a catch and drive at a line out. Thomas Outram was unable to add the extra points.

Gareth Bown opened Dudley's account with three points.

However, straight from the restart Tigers won possession and Nick Thomson waltzed through the DK defence to score his second try. The second half started with a comedy of errors from both sides. With a one man advantage Tigers began to dominate the set pieces, especially the scrums and DK began to tire. The quality of play began to deteriorate and a certain amount of niggles came in. It took 26 minutes for the home side to increase their lead when second row Joshua Redfern crossed for his second try. Thomas Outram converted.

The Tigers crossed for a further two tries scored by Peter Swatkins and Andrew Barnes. Both were converted by Thomas Outram.

DK did grab a consolation try in injury time thanks to Nick Adams.



Heading for a collision Nick Murphy going full tilt for Dudley Kingswinford against Sheffield Tigers

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